

PRAY EVERY DAY September 27, 2020 Resource

Join in Giving Thanks to God from Psalm 118:1-4, NRSV

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

September 9 – 29 “Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control”

September 30 – October 20 “Fruit of the Spirit: Trust”

September 28: Romans 6:5-11

October 2: Psalm 20:6-9

September 29: Romans 6:12-14

October 3: Psalm 37:1-4

September 30: Proverbs 16:20

October 4: Psalm 40:1-3

October 1: Proverbs 3:5-8

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 21:33-46

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- In Matthew 21:33-46 Jesus was challenging religious leaders to recognize several things. Everything belongs to God including the work we do – it is not “mine” it is God’s. Faith in God leads us to change our language from “mine” to “ours.” That change can also be from “mine” to “God’s.” Where in your life would you still say “mine” to the exclusion of Jesus?

- In the parable the vineyard tenants abuse, reject, ignore, or kill the servants sent to them by the Lord of the Vineyard. Who are people in your life that you would recognize as followers of Jesus who you have rejected or ignored what God might say to you through them? Who are people in your life that may not be followers of Jesus that you have rejected or ignored, yet in God’s grace that God may be speaking through them to you something you need to pay attention to like it was coming straight from Jesus?

- The Welcoming Prayer exercise below by Mary Mrozowski is one that invites us to welcome what is happening in our lives and to seek God’s grace in it. Practicing this prayer may help us welcome the grace Jesus would give us in whatever is happening.

Welcoming Prayer by Mary Mrozowski

“I am where I need to be. Everything around me includes and hides the sacred.”

1. Notice and sink into the feelings, emotions, thoughts, sensations, and commentaries in your body.
2. Accept the divine indwelling in what you are experiencing by simply saying, “Welcome.” You might say “Welcome, pain” or “Welcome, confusion.”
3. Adopt an attitude of surrender by inwardly affirming the following intention: “I let go of the desire for security, affection, control. I let go of the desire to change the situation.”

Spend time in silence
Prayer for others and yourself
The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Going in Thanksgiving from Psalm 118:21-24, NRSV

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders has rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!