

PRAY EVERY DAY September 6, 2020 Resource

Remembering God's Love that Seeks Us Out from Psalm 119:176, NRSV

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

*A Prayer for Those Who Work by Andy Langford**

O Living Word, by whom all things are created,
bless all who work daily in home, field, and marketplace.
Labor with them until the creation of the new heaven and earth.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the Unemployed from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer by Thomas More

The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

August 18 – September 8 “Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness”

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

September 7: Titus 3:4-11

September 11: Proverbs 17:27

September 8: James 3:16-18

September 12: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

September 9: Psalm 32:8-11

September 13: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

September 10: Proverbs 25:28

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 20:1-16.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- The parable uses the image of a landowner and day laborers for the kingdom of heaven. Part of God's grace is calling us to work and giving good work to do. We are created in the image of God and one of the first images in scriptures in Genesis 1:1 – 2:4 is of God who works. Christianity affirms we are saved by faith alone in the grace alone of Jesus Christ. The work of salvation is God's, yet there is still good work for us to do as we are yoked with Christ. How do you see God working in the Bible?
 - How does the work you do relate to faith in Jesus Christ or not relate?
 - If you worked all day and got paid the same as the one who worked only one hour, how would you feel? How would you feel if you worked just one hour and received full day pay?
 - How does the generosity of the landowner in paying everyone the same reflect the generosity of God? For who is the generosity of God good news? For who is it a challenge?
 - Like the kingdom heaven, how can you make and support an environment for good work and generosity to workers?

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.

Affirmation of Faith from Luke 19:10, NRSV

"For the Son of Man to seek out and to save the lost."

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