

## PRAY EVERY DAY October 11, 2020 Resource

*Recall and Endure from Hebrews 10:32-39, NRSV*

...recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet

“in a very little while,

the one who is coming will come and will not delay;

but my righteous one will live by faith.

My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.”

But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge*

More resources at [www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge](http://www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge)

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

October 12: Psalm 25:1-5

October 16: Psalm 4:4-5

October 13: Psalm 26:1-3

October 17: John 8:24-30

October 14: Psalm 56:3-4

October 18: John 10:37-38

October 15: Psalm 119:41-48

*Small Group or Personal Study*

Read Matthew 25:1-13

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- All ten bridesmaids in the parable were ready with lamps and oil to walk alongside the bridegroom and bride during the night to from the bride’s home to their new home together and the wedding banquet. How is your readiness right now to walk alongside Jesus Christ (like the bridegroom) and people Jesus is bringing saving grace (like the bride going to a new home)? Are you ready to serve, let your light shine, and join in with what Jesus is doing in others?

- Five of the bridesmaids were foolish and did not have enough oil when the bridegroom did not arrive right away. When the bridegroom did arrive they tried to go buy oil but ended up missing their opportunity. Has there been a time when Jesus arrived and directed you to share the love of God with someone but you were “out of oil” and missed your opportunity to join in with what Jesus was doing? What is that story if you have one?

- How can you regularly have “extra oil” and replenish your reserves with God’s grace, faith, and Christian action? Harry Denman was a well-known United Methodist evangelist who would copy the Bible into his own handwriting a little bit at a time every day. What are the daily and weekly rhythms you have or would work for you to have “extra oil” for whenever Jesus arrives and gives you a nudge to share the love of Jesus?

*A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas*

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward,  
unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out,  
upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*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 it this week in small group for support and prayer.

*Hold On from Hebrews 10:23-25, NRSV*

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.