

PRAY EVERY DAY October 18, 2020 Resource

Gospel Faith from Romans 1:16-17, NRSV

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

A Prayer by Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

September 30 – October 20 "Fruit of the Spirit: Trust"

October 21 – November 10: "Fruit of the Spirit: Mercy"

October 19: John 10:37-38

October 23: Psalm 25:6-7

October 20: John 20:30-31

October 24: Matthew 5:7

October 21: Matthew 9:10-13

October 25: Matthew 18:23-35

October 22: Matthew 12:1-8

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Hebrews 11:1-11

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- Where and how is it difficult to have faith today? What obstacles are there to faith in God (generally and for you)?
- There are many examples of faith in Hebrews 11 and the Bible. Choose a person from the list in Hebrews 11 or a person from somewhere else in the Bible and write down or share what you see in their faith, especially as it relates to believing before seeing.
- Share with someone one thing you have faith in God about though you may or may not have seen it come to completion yet. How did that faith come to live in you?
- In Romans 1:17 above "the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith." How has faith revealed to you the goodness of God?
- Where might faith in God be needed right now in your life or in a neighbor? Ask God for grace where you need faith today. Share the faith you have graciously with someone else today in the spirit of building each other up in the grace of Jesus.

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.

Walk by Faith from 2 Corinthians 5:6, NRSV

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight.