

## PRAY EVERY DAY November 15, 2020 Resource

### *Invitation to Prayer from Ephesians 6:18, NRSV*

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

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

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

November 11 – December 1: “Fruit of the Spirit: Bearing Fruit”

November 16: Matthew 3:8-10; Luke 3:8-9

November 20: Luke 13:5-9

November 17: Matthew 13:18-23

November 21: John 12:23-26

November 18: Mark 4:13-20

November 22: John 15:1-7

November 19: Luke 6:43-45

### *Small Group or Personal Study*

Read Ephesians 1:15-23.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- When Paul was writing the letter to the Ephesians, he was in prison and it could have been when he was facing execution in Rome. Imagine the location Paul was in when he wrote these words—in prison, or house arrest, or in chains. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 again and notice who Paul was praying for and what he was praying for them about in this passage.
- Read aloud Ephesians 1:15-23 as thanksgiving and prayer for you. Which parts of these scriptures as a prayer for you give you affirmation or challenge today?
- Notice that Paul heard about the faith of the Ephesians, prayed for them, and continued to pray for them. Start a prayer list today and keep it this week. Write down specific people and their needs that Jesus would have you pray for (family, neighbors, church, enemies, those in need, etc.). Review your prayer list each day and make notes for updates on adding people, things to pray for, or prayers answered.
- Share prayer with someone today like Paul did, so at least one person will know you are praying for them. Paul was under arrest and could not go to Ephesus himself at that time, so he sent a letter. What format could you use to give thanks and pray for someone today? What could you pray for people about? Notice Paul took time to give thanks for people and to pray the blessings of knowing the hope, power, and wisdom of God. Share prayer.

### *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.

*A Blessing from Ephesians 6:23-24, NRSV*

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.