

PRAY EVERY DAY November 22, 2020 Resource

Above All from Colossians 3:14-15, NRSV

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

A Traditional Prayer to be Truly Thankful

Lord, make us truly thankful for these and all other blessings.
I ask this in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

November 11 - December 1: "Fruit of the Spirit: Bearing Fruit"

November 23: John 15:8-11

November 27: Titus 3:14

November 24: John 15:12-17

November 28: Philippians 1:6-11

November 25: Romans 7:4-6

November 29: Proverbs 11:24-31

November 26: Colossians 1:9-14

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Timothy 2:1-7.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- Colossians 3:12-17 has an image of getting dressed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love. Additional items are the forgiving others, peace of Christ, thankfulness, and the Word of Christ. Pick a time each day this week to put these things on in the grace of Jesus Christ. It might be at a time you get dressed. You could associate each thing with something you wear or you could pray a simple prayer such as, "By the grace of Jesus, I put on thankfulness."
- What things do you usually wear that might clash with the things you put on everyday in faith this week from Colossians 3:12-17 – arrogance, apathy, wrath, or something else? How might you take off those things that clash with Colossians 3:12-17? You could take time for a simple prayer such as, "By the grace of Jesus, I take off ingratitude."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 gives instructions to "give thanks in all circumstances" (NRSV), but it does not say to be thankful for every circumstance. What's the difference? There are circumstances we may not be very thankful for, but in all circumstances there are things to be thankful for such as that God is with us in every circumstance. Give thanks today for a circumstance you are glad occurred. Find something to give thanks for in a recent difficult circumstance. If you cannot think of anything to be thankful for in a particular circumstance, ask for God's help so that you can see where there may have been grace you missed before.

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.

Whatever You Do from Colossians 3:17, NRSV

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.