

PRAY EVERY DAY January 10, 2021 Resource

*Beginning with Praise from Psalm 126:1-3 (NRSV)*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

January 11: Genesis 32--34	January 15: Genesis 43 – 45
January 12: Genesis 35 – 37	January 16: Genesis 46 – 47
January 13: Genesis 38 – 40	January 17: Genesis 48 – 50
January 14: Genesis 41 – 42	

*A Prayer of Francis Drake*

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.  
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Genesis 37:1-11

- In Genesis 37:1-11 Joseph had a God-given dream. How would you describe God's dreams for humanity, the church, and you?
- In worship January 10 we shared in remembering our baptisms. What promises, grace, or images from baptism help you understand what God is doing in you and the world?
- What are your dreams for yourself? How do your dreams for yourself compare to God's dreams? How are they similar? How are they different?
- Joseph was a 17-year-old, 12<sup>th</sup> born, 11<sup>th</sup> son. In his ancient culture the places for position and influence in his family were already taken by his 10 elder brothers. Walter Brueggemann suggests it may be easier for someone like Joseph (next-to-last) to accept a God-given dream because it gives hope and grace for all, not only those in established places of power. In what ways are you like or not like Joseph related to Joseph's age, low position, limited opportunities, and willingness to believe in a God-given dream?
- Joseph's older brothers hated Joseph for the God-given dreams he shared. They did not like the idea of bowing to their younger brother! Walter Brueggemann suggests it may be difficult for those in established places of power or position (like the older brothers) to believe God-given dreams. Those God-given dreams often turn established things upside down (i.e.,

the last shall be first). In what ways might you be like or not like the older brothers with regard to seniority, high position, privileges, or hostility toward a God-given dream?

*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 Prayer Dreaming of God's Restoration from Psalm 126:4-6 (NRSV)*

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seeds for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.