

PRAY EVERY DAY April 25, 2021 Resource

*Asking for God to Hear from Psalm 80:1-2 (NRSV)*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

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

April 26: 2 Kings 15 – 17

April 30: 1 Chronicles 1 – 2

April 27: 2 Kings 18 – 19

May 1: 1 Chronicles 3 – 5

April 28: 2 Kings 20 – 22

May 2: 1 Chronicles 6

April 29: 2 Kings 23 – 25

*Small Group or personal study*

Read 1 John 3:1-10

- When reading a passage of scripture we often have to read it in context (with the text around it). Reading the Bible in context can mean reading a passage in light of the whole book it is a part of and within the whole text of the Bible. As Christians we particularly read scripture in the light of Jesus Christ. Look at 1 John 3:4-9 and what it says about us and sin. How do you interpret it?

- Now read 1 John 1:6-10. What does this passage say about us and sin? How is it different or the same as 1 John 3:4-9?

- Notice the actions of God in 1 John 1:5-10 and 3:1-10. Jesus forgives and cleanses from sin as we confess our sins. Jesus has come to destroy sin and make us the children of God empowered by God to grow in our understanding and actions to be more and more like Jesus. Forgiveness and being a child of God in these passages are actions of God. Have you allowed God to forgive you and make you a child of God?

- How have you done that?

- What is holding you back from allowing God to make you more like Jesus?

- What would it be like to take a nametag and write on it “Child of God” and wear that around? What would it mean for you claim God’s grace for you? How would it influence how you treat others displaying that you are a child of God?

- What would it be like to imagine other people of faith in Christ as wearing a name tag that reads “Child of God”? How would being under the same grace, salvation, and presence of Jesus Christ impact your relationship?

*A Collect from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishops' 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.

*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.

*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.

*Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Peace in God from Psalm 4:6-8 (NRSV)*

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.