

PRAY EVERY DAY May 16, 2021 Resource

Waiting Patiently from Psalm 40:1-3 (NRSV)

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making them secure.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward,
unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out,
upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.
Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

May 17: 2 Chronicles 25 – 27	May 21: Ezra 1 – 3
May 18: 2 Chronicles 28 – 31	May 22: Ezra 4 – 7
May 19: 2 Chronicles 32 – 34	May 23: Ezra 8 – 10
May 20: 2 Chronicles 35 – 36	

Small Group or personal study

Read Acts 1:1-11

- Before ascending Jesus told the disciples to wait together for the promise of the Father where they would receive (1) the Holy Spirit, (2) power, (3) and be witnesses of Jesus to the ends of the world. How do you wait with other Christians for the Holy Spirit, power, and to be a witness of Jesus Christ? How have you done so in the past? How are you doing so now?

- The places the disciples would be witnesses in Acts 1 were Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This can indicate that the witnesses of Jesus would spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. It also indicates places of division and difference in politics, religion, culture, language, and more. It seems Jesus wanted disciples to be Holy Spirit empowered to be witnesses to everyone. What would be today's geography and divides for where the Holy Spirit will empower us to bear witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ in our own community?

- The disciples waited about 10 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came with power. Let this be a week of waiting. Write down some of the times you have witnessed the grace of Jesus Christ in your life, or a relationship, or the church. Choose one of those times and write down the story as a testimony that you could share in the future with someone else. Take time to practice your testimony this week. Bring the week of waiting and the testimony you write down to worship this Sunday.

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.

For All Who Seek from Psalm 40:16-17 (NRSV)

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"
As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.