

PRAY EVERY DAY May 9, 2021 Resource

Sing a New Song from Psalm 98:1-3 (NRSV)

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.
The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

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

May 10: 1 Chronicles 28 – 29; 2 Chronicles 1	May 14: 2 Chronicles 13 – 17
May 11: 2 Chronicles 2 – 5	May 15: 2 Chronicles 18 – 20
May 12: 2 Chronicles 6 – 8	May 16: 2 Chronicles 21 – 24
May 13: 2 Chronicles 9 – 12	

Small Group or personal study

Read 1 John 5:1-6

- Loving God puts us on a path to loving others. Loving God leads us to loving Jesus Christ which leads to loving the children of God who are all who believe in Jesus Christ. 1 John deals several times with disconnects between loving God and loving others. How does loving God the Father, or Jesus Christ, or others lead you to loving the rest?
- Where do you have a disconnect in loving God the Father, or Jesus Christ, or the children of God?
- William Barclay notes how v. 5:3 says the commands of God are not burdensome. Barclay says that some of the commands of God are very difficult, things we might hesitate to do. Barclay says what makes God's commands not burdensome is when we go forward with God and in the power of God's love. Barclay observes that actions done in love are not burdensome though they may be difficult. Love gives us the courage and resolve to do the most difficult things as a gift for those we love. What might be impossible for us left to ourselves is possible when in the grace of God. How is God's command to "Love God, love others, and love yourself" difficult for you?
- When has following God's commands seemed a burden and when has following God's commands seemed a joy?
- The themes of victory and conquering come in these verses through faith in Jesus Christ. Where have you found victory through Jesus Christ?
- Where are you still awaiting the victory of faith in Jesus in your life?

A Prayer by Boniface

Eternal God, the refuge of all your children, in our weakness you are our strength, in our darkness our light, in our sorrow our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Make a Joyful Noise from Psalm 98:4 (NRSV)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.