

PRAY EVERY DAY June 20, 2021 Resource

*Whole-Hearted Thanks from Psalm 9:1 (NRSV)*

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

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

June 21: Psalm 40 – 45

June 25: Psalm 66 – 69

June 22: Psalm 46 – 50

June 26: Psalm 70 – 73

June 23: Psalm 51 – 57

June 27: Psalm 74 – 77

June 24: Psalm 58 – 65

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Mark 4:26-34

- Parables are stories Jesus shares to teach about what the kingdom of God is like.

Parables also have surprises in them. One surprise in verses 26-29 is that the kingdom of God grows without our understanding or even managing every aspect of it. Yet, we are still a part of it in planting, working, and harvesting in that parable. What do you not understand about how the kingdom of God grows?

- How have you seen the kingdom of God grow without your managing every detail of it?
- One thing reflected in the parable in verses 26-29 (and the scriptures in general) is that God's work, salvation, and grace bring the kingdom of God. How does it make you feel that God is at work to bring the kingdom in ways we don't fully understand and can't manage?
- The second parable of the mustard seed in verses 30-32 has one surprise of the kingdom of God being compared to a tiny seed. A second surprise is the unexpected growth of the mustard bush that becomes big enough to support nests for birds. What aspects of the kingdom of God seem very small to you, easy to lose, maybe hard to see?
- How have you seen something of the kingdom of God begin small but grow enough to give people shade, shelter, and peace in Jesus Christ?
- In the mustard seed parable the kingdom of God is planted. What small seed of Jesus Christ is the Holy Spirit moving you plant this week in your life or the life of someone else?

*Hymn "Happy the Home When God Is There" words by Henry Ware, Jr., 1846*

Happy the home when God is there, and love fills every breast;  
when one their wish, and one their prayer, and one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name is sweet to every ear;  
where children early speak his fame, and parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard, and praise is wont to rise;  
where parents love the sacred Word and all its wisdom prize.

Lord, let us in our homes agree this blessed peace to gain;

unite our hearts in love to thee, and love to all will reign.

*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.

*The Stronghold of God from Psalm 9:9-10, 18 (NRSV)*

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.  
For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor perish forever.