

PRAY EVERY DAY January 23, 2022 Resource

Psalm Praise from Psalm 19:1 (NRSV)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

A Prayer for the Church from The Book of Common Prayer, 1928

Most merciful Father, send your heavenly blessings upon this your Church, that all its members may dwell together in unity and love. Keep far from us all self-will and discord. Endue your pastors with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to fulfill their ministry, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. And grant to us so to receive their ministrations, and to use your means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek your glory and the advancement of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2022 Challenge (One Year Bible Reading Plan)

You may find this plan on the Virginia Annual Conference website <https://vaumc.org> or pick up a copy of the reading plan at KUMC.

The Bible in a Year with KUMC

This plan is available at KUMC and on the church website. This plan can be started at anytime.

Small Group or personal study

- What was your furthest moment from God this week?
- What was your closest moment to God this week?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- In this passage the work of making us part of the body of Christ comes through “the Spirit” and is connected to baptism (v. 13). God is credited with arranging the members and appointing various gifts. Being included and part of the body of Christ is God’s work. The connection we have is not based on our racial or ethnic identity or social status identity (v. 13), but is in Christ, the Spirit, and God the Father. God has done all this work, given you a place, and gifts to share. What are you going to do about it?
 - The body of Christ is filled with diversity. Many members make up the one body of Christ. If you were to describe yourself as a body part in relating to Christ and others, which part would you be (a hand, a foot, an eye, the brain, the heart, the funny bone)? Why do you see yourself in this way?
 - Verses 28-30 identify that there are different gifts and roles in the body of Christ given by God for “the common good” (v. 7). From this list of gifts, which one(s) has God given to you so far?
 - Rather than hierarchies (superior and inferior), Paul stresses the interdependence, necessity, and mutuality of the different members of the body of Christ (when one suffers, all suffer together or when one honored, all honored together). Name five Christians you know. How would you describe their part in the body and the gifts God has given them? How are these various gifts necessary for building up the body of Christ and doing the work of Christ in the world?

- Who is being honored in the body of Christ this week? How can you join in honoring them? Is there a way that you are being honored that you can invite the body of Christ to share in that honor?

- Who is suffering in the body of Christ this week? How can you join in caring for their suffering? Is there a way you are suffering that you can share with the body of Christ for support and grace?

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Psalm Prayer from Psalm 19:14 (NRSV)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.