

PRAY EVERY DAY August 6, 2023 Resource

Praying the Psalms: Psalm 17

A Collect from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Bible in a Year with KUMC

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

Small Group or personal study

- Read Genesis 32:22-31. What do you discover about God who wrestled with Jacob?
- Sing, read, and pray the hymn "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" by Charles Wesley. Wesley places Jesus as the one who wrestles with the singer who takes the place of Jacob. What are you wrestling with in your life? As God did with Jacob, how might God enter the things you are wrestling with so that you may struggle with and be blessed by God?

Hymn "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" Words by Charles Wesley, 1742.

Come, O thou Traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see!
My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee;
with thee all night I mean to stay and wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell thee who I am, my misery and sin declare;
thyself hast called me by my name, look on thy hands and read it there.
But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name, and tell me now.

In vain thou strugglest to get free, I never will unloose my hold;
art thou the man that died for me? The secret of thy love unfold;
wrestling, I will not let thee go till I thy name, thy nature know.

Wilt thou not yet to me reveal thy new, unutterable name?
Tell me, I still beseech thee, tell, to know it now resolved I am;
wrestling, I will not let thee go, till I thy name, thy nature know.

'Tis all in vain to hold thy tongue or touch the hollow of my thigh;
though every sinew be unstrung, out of my arms thou shalt not fly;
wrestling I will not let thee go till I thy name, thy nature know.

What though my shrinking flesh complain and murmur to contend so long?
I rise superior to my pain: when I am weak then I am strong,
and when my all of strength shall fail I shall with the God-man prevail.

Contented now upon my thigh I halt, till life's short journey end;
all helplessness, all weakness I on thee alone for strength depend;
nor have I power from thee to move: thy nature, and thy name is Love.

My strength is gone, my nature dies, I sink beneath thy weighty hand,
faint to revive, and fall to rise; I fall, and yet by faith I stand;
I stand and will not let thee go till I thy name, thy nature know.

Yield to me now – for I am weak but confident in self-despair!
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak, be conquered by my instant prayer:
speak, or thou never hence shall move, and tell me if thy name is Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedest for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart.
The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure Universal Love thou art:
to me, to all, thy mercies move – thy nature, and thy name is Love.

My prayer hath power with God; thy grace unspeakable I now receive;
through faith I see thee face to face, I see thee face to face, and live!
In vain I have not wept and strove – thy nature, and thy name is Love.

I know thee, Savior, who thou art, Jesus, the feeble sinner's friend;
nor wilt thou with the night depart, but stay and love me to the end:
thy mercies never shall remove, thy nature, and thy name is Love.

The Sun of Righteousness on me hath risen with healing in his wings:
withered my nature's strength; from thee my soul its life and succor brings;
my help is all laid up above; thy nature, and thy name is Love.

Lame as I am, I take the prey, hell, earth, and sin with ease overcome;
I leap for joy, pursue my way, and as a bounding hart fly home,
through all eternity to prove thy nature, and thy name is Love.

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

Wrestling with God for 40 Days in Prayer (July 16-August 24)

Consider these questions (from Bishop Will Willimon) in prayer each day and journal in your notebook.

- Where is the hope for our congregation?
- Lord, what are your plans for us now?
- How can our congregation discover what Christ is up to in our neighborhood and how can we hitch on to what Christ is doing?
- What part of your mission, Jesus, have you assigned to our congregation?
- How can we stop doing some of the things we have been doing so we can start doing some of the things God wants us to do?
- What are some appropriate goals and mission strategies for us in this moment?
- What sort of pastoral leadership is required now to keep up with Christ as he strides into his future?

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?

Praying the Psalms: Psalm 34