



Partners in PRAYER

Newsletter of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Pray at All Times and in All Places

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, and when they entered they went up to the upper room, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. (Acts 1:12-14)

When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.... (Acts 2:1-4a)

Dear Friends,

These disciples, men and women, had been praying in the upper room for ten days after Jesus ascended waiting for what He had promised. They were lost and without leadership. What little leadership they had came from Peter, and all he could think of was to elect someone to take the place of Judas. He no doubt thought that if Jesus chose twelve, they needed twelve also. There are some people who think the disciples acted too hastily, and had they waited, Paul would have been elected as the 12th apostle. (It is interesting to note that in support for this Matthias is not mentioned again in scripture).

The Day of Pentecost came and the disciples were still in the upper room talking and praying as noted earlier, certainly praying for direction and guidance. Peter knew he was some sort of leader after he received Jesus's order to, "Feed my sheep" but still had no ideas what direction to take. Then it happened! The Holy Spirit came and imbued them with power. They all went, joyous and expectant, to the Temple to tell everyone what had happened. Then Peter, with clarity from the Holy Spirit, "standing with the eleven" preached his powerful sermon to all those within hearing distance who had come to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. Then the apostles went out and "turned the world upside down"!

I'm sure the apostles wondered from time to time if God was hearing their prayers for it had been ten days since Jesus left and no answer had come. However, perhaps they talked about Daniel's situation noting that it was three weeks of praying on Daniel's part before a word came to him (Daniel 10). Perhaps we can learn from these two incidents. Are we impatient when we pray, wanting an answer right away? Monica prayed for years for her son Augustine before her prayers were answered. In Luke 18:1 Jesus tells his disciples to always pray and not lose heart.

Let us, too, heed this advice and continue to pray at all times and in all places. We all can't preach like Peter nor can we all write like Paul but all of us can pray. Let's do it with expectant hearts knowing that though our prayers might not be answered right away, we will continue to pray always and In The Name of Jesus.

Faithfully,

William C. Williams, President

Teach me to pray, pray thou thyself in me.

Francois Fenelon

Prayers for Leisure and Holidays

Thank you, God, for holidays
In the lovely summer days,
For our picnics, for our fun,
For our playing in the sun.
Make us good, with smiling faces,
So our homes are safe and friendly places.
Amen.

Lord, thank you for times of leisure: time to read books; time to look at family pictures; time to walk the dog or nurse the cat; time to shop; time to chat over the fence with a neighbor; phone a friend or relative, time to doodle or listen quietly to music. Give me quiet time with you too. Bless these times of recreation and leisure and strengthen me through them to do your will. Amen.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while.' Mark 6

Thank you for the gift of leisure,
for time to unwind, reflect and plan,
to exercise or simply sit in quiet.
We thank you for the people who create our holiday
by working in the cockpit and control room,
in garage, signal-box and harbour office;
for those in kitchens, dining rooms and bars,
those guiding tours and running sports and games;
may they too find time for rest and recreation...
May we be truly recreated in our recreation,
our lives enlarged with new enthusiasm
and a broader vision of your purpose. Amen.
Stephen Orchard

Dear God, when you took the disciples away for a rest you were met by large, demanding crowds who needed your help. We pray today for all who cannot take a holiday and have very little leisure time. Refresh them in the midst of their work. Amen.

Lord of the Sabbath, teach us to enrich our rest and leisure with reverence and with praise.

Thank you, Lord, for the pleasures of sport: for the fun and exhilaration of taking part and for the excitement of watching.
May our sport be kept honest and fair, good-natured and friendly so that the world of sport may glorify your name. Amen.

I pray, Lord Jesus, for all who engage in sporting activity: in the big events and for stars that catch the headlines, and in the numerous matches and contests in our own area, in schools, and clubs, and among families gathering and friends. Let pleasure and healthy exercise be the motive, and let the enjoyment and friendly rivalry contribute to the building up of community life. Amen.



Power of United Worship

Through a turbulent two thousand years of history there have always been those in the church who truly worshiped and enshrined Jesus in their hearts. As a result, faith in Jesus and His real meaning for mankind has been kept bright and shining. The Church has nurtured and cultivated the worship of Him, His Father, and His Holy Spirit.

In the services of the Church Year the great events of His life and death, the resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost have been dramatized. In the season of Advent we prepare to receive Him. At Christmas we re-enact, in carols and pageantry and story, the tender account of His nativity. In Epiphany we re-enact His early years. In Lent we observe the forty days of His fasting, temptation, and prayer, followed by the climactic drama of Holy Week, when we follow Him into Jerusalem, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and up to Calvary, until we stand before the empty tomb on Easter morning. Then comes the Ascension season and Pentecost, the commemoration of the birthday of the Church, when His Living Holy Spirit came into His followers and His Church was born. The long Trinity season reminds us continually of the three-fold function of God. He is our Father, our Redeemer, and our Empowerer. The sweep of this mighty drama of redemption is re-enacted for us every single year in the weekly worship services of the Church, and has been for two thousand unbroken years.

As we come to Morning Worship we should remember, with gratitude, that the Church has not allowed one iota of this glory to be forgotten or fade from man's memory. The Church has kept alive the spirit of worship in the world.

But what is worship?

Worship is a candle in the act of being lighted.

Worship is the soul standing silent before the mysteries.

Worship is an eager heart seeking for the love that never fails.

Worship is man climbing the altar stairs to God.

When we go to church to worship together we realize with a deep sense of joy and security that we are part of a great, living company who through the centuries have come together as we are coming together, to worship a living God.

Taken from The Secret of Effective Prayer by Helen Smith Shoemaker

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore; let the whole earth also worship you, all kingdoms obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and the sons of men love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eric Milner-White

Prayers for the World

Come Spirit, source of our Peace.
Deepen in us the action of peacemakers. Heal the divisions that ravage the earth. *Joyce Rupp*



Dear Lord Jesus Christ, please hear our prayer for the nations of the world. Grant that mercy, wisdom, and true justice prevail in the hearts of the leaders and of the people. Amen.

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

Graduation is a time of great expectations and adventures. In His wisdom, however, God only lets you see as far ahead as today. When life's rough mountain peaks and deep valleys stand in the way of your goals, don't be discouraged. Take your eyes off those around you. Take a fresh look at the person God designed you to be. Then continue toward your destination, one step at a time.

"Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time." Matthew 6:34

Become an AFP Intercessor

In *The Secret of Intercession*, a superb little booklet, Dr. Andrew Murray reminds us of the vital importance of united intercession with these words:

God's intense longing to bless seems in some sense to be graciously limited by His dependence on the intercession that rises from the earth...God regards intercession as the highest expression of His people's readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His almighty power. Christians need to realize this as their true nobility and their only power with God - the right to claim and expect that God will hear prayer. God rules the world and His Church through the prayers of His people. That God should have made the extension of His kingdom to such a large extent dependent on the faithfulness of His people in prayer is a stupendous mystery and yet an absolute certainty.

If you would like to be an AFP Intercessor, go to www.afp.org, click on *Prayer* and then click on *Prayer Warrior*.



AFP Needs You

It is your support that makes the AFP work possible. We are excited about the opportunity to serve you and the Church in an increasingly effective manner. Prayer is at the very center of our lives as Christians, and there can be no higher calling than to keep prayer in the forefront of the life of the Church. As we move into the financially leaner summer months, please join with us in prayer for more than adequate resources. Please know that your tax deductible financial gifts, whether large or small, are needed and greatly appreciated at this time. Thank you. Mary Hilton, Executive Director

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