

**Lifting Our Church
Family in Prayer:**

Prayers of Praise
9/6/16 Healthy Baby
Alani Grace Giles

Prayers of Healing
Rik Dejong
Alta Peekstock
Debbie Still
Noel Froelich
Adrienne Ferrin
Adlin Francis Lee
Mike Dixon

Extended Care Facilities:
Dot Stone
Donna McFadden

Prayers of Comfort
Hazel Gray on the death
of her husband Clinton

Carol Rosche on the death
Of husband Curt

Jack and Diane Martin on the death
of cousin James Reid

Marsha Squire on the death of her
Husband David

Prayers for the Military
Nick Imperiale
Tyler

My Prayers this week:



Palms West
— Presbyterian Church —

Sermon: What in the World is God up to?

Date: Sunday October 2, 2016

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-15

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

Prayer:

Lord of the church, we pray that Churches across the globe, along with all of Your people in all churches, will have an awesome encounter with You today, as they worship you in Spirit and in truth. Amen.

Daily Study Guide

Monday October 2, 2016 – Matthew 9:35-38

One significant problem the church faces is that too often gifted young people do not even think about ministry as a noble, challenging life vocation. Today we pray that God will change that, and call 2000 young clergy in North America to commit their lives to ministry.

- Are there gifted, spiritual young people you could influence to consider ministry as a life calling? Ask God to give you insight into how and when you can effectively exercise your influence in their lives.
- Join with your fellow disciples in this prayer: “Lord, we pray that you would raise up laborers for the harvest. Specifically, we ask you to raise up 2000 young clergy in America and call them into Christian ministry.”

Tuesday October 3, 2016 – Romans 15:17-20

We need more churches. Do you doubt that? Here’s a simple way to decide: if all the people in town who do not know Christ decided to come to church on the same weekend, would there be enough seats for them? Simple answer: no, there wouldn’t be. We need more new, vibrant churches.

- Paul planted Christian churches in Athens, Corinth and many other major cities of his day, and he wrote this letter to a church in Rome that he’d never visited. Yet he was still looking for new frontiers to conquer for Christ. How does his adventuresome, pioneering spirit speak to you?
- Join your brothers and sisters in the faith in this prayer: “Lord, we pray that you would raise up new churches in America in places where there is no vibrant witness for the Gospel right now.”

Wednesday October 4, 2016 – Matthew 25:31-45

Our language is telling: we speak of those who are “overlooked,” who are “marginalized.” It isn’t God who overlooks them - apparently it’s us. Today we pray in a special way that God will give vision and energy to our ministry to the poor.

- There’s a gospel song that speaks of “a hungry child, a lonely old man, a stranger who needed a coat,” and then says, sadly, “I let him down, not knowing it was Jesus - here in my own town.” Are your eyes open to see Jesus among us? What are some ways we blind ourselves to those in need?
- Join fellow Christians in this prayer: “Lord we pray that you would use our church to alleviate poverty, stamp out malaria and HIV/AIDS, and minister to the less fortunate and overlooked in the name of Jesus.”

Thursday October 5, 2016 – Ezekiel 37:1-11, Acts 2:47

By ourselves, we’re not smart enough, creative enough, energetic enough or spiritually powerful enough to bring new life and energy to a church that has been declining for over four decades. But Israel, at the time of the exile, was in even worse shape—and Ezekiel’s vision said that God still promises new life!

- Pastor A. T. Pierson once wrote that “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” What thoughts, visions or hopes have these days of prayer triggered in your heart? In what ways is God calling you to help bring greater life to your church?
- Join other church members in this prayer: “Lord, we pray that you would bring renewed vitality to the Presbyterian Church, and that You would daily add to your church through new professions of faith.”

Friday October 6, 2016 – John 17:15-23

This passage records a prayer that Jesus prayed. On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus brought all of his followers (including you) before God in prayer, and the focus of his prayer was that his followers remain in God-given unity. Today you have the privilege of joining Jesus himself in this prayer.

- What are some of the forces that make you feel suspicious of, or uncomfortable with, others who believe in Jesus? How can you open your heart to “want what God wants”- to value the unity of the body of believers more highly than your own opinions, wishes or authority?
- Join with your Christian family in praying this prayer: “Lord, we pray for a healthy unity across the Entire Christian Church such that the unbelieving world may see and believe in you.”

Saturday October 7, 2016 - Isaiah 55:6-11

In Hebrews 4:12, we read that God’s word is “alive and active.” But it can only bring us alive as we open the Book, and open our minds and hearts to internalize and act on God’s messages found in the Bible. No matter what’s happened before, God’s powerful Word can make your life “blossom and flourish.”

- What (if anything) do you treasure about the Bible? In what ways has God’s Word left its powerful imprint on your way of life?
- Join thousands of other Bible readers in this prayer: “Lord, we pray that as the Word of God is preached in our church and other Christian churches tomorrow that you would bear fruit that will last forever.”