

## Welcome to the Day of Prayer!

### Thursday April 1, 2021

Before you pray, take time to quiet your heart. Reflect for a few quiet moments on this inspirational quote by Corrie ten Boom as you turn your focus from your busy day to the Lord, Your Savior and Your God.

*The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love.*

*Corrie ten Boom*

Now relax. Be assured that God brought you here today. And you may find you are less harried when you leave. Now, it is time to pray.

### **ADORATION OF GOD:**

Start your prayer time by telling God what you know about His character and think of Him. When we ponder and praise God first, our problems are quickly put in perspective. Praise Him for His characteristics:

- **God is self-existent;** *He created all things; every living thing owes its existence to Him.*
- **God is infinite** in time (*He is eternal*), and space (*He is omnipresent*), and in power (*He is omnipotent*), and in knowledge (*He is omniscient*).
- **God is absolutely holy;** *there is none like Him, and no wickedness or evil is a part of His nature.*
- **God is personal;** *He isn't just a force, but a person, and deals personally with every other person.*
- **God is righteous;** *He Himself is the standard by which we know right and wrong, and He will judge the world one day in righteousness.*
- **God is immutable;** *He does not change or grow. He is absolutely faithful to His word, and remains the same yesterday, today and forever.*
- **God is loving;** *He defines and embodies love; He seeks our best interests regardless of the cost to Him or the worthiness of the recipient.*
- **God is sovereign;** *He accomplishes His will unhindered by external influences or forces; He exercises supreme power and authority.*

### **CONFESSION TO GOD:**

According to *"The Amazing Collection,"* a book-by-book Bible Study, the word "confess" in 1 John 1:9 consists of two Greek words: *homo*, meaning "same," and *logeo*, meaning "to say." Thus the word means "to say the same thing; to agree." Confession of sin means we say the same thing about sin that God says. We admit it is sin. We acknowledge that our sin offends God's holiness. And we agree that our sin is a stain that needs to be blotted out.

Now quietly, whisper to God what He already knows, what is never hidden from His gaze—acknowledge all your failings and sins; tell Him all the things you have done wrong, and the things you have left undone that you should have done.

Having confessed, claim His forgiveness:

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

### **THANKSGIVING TO GOD:**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16–17)*

Today is Maundy Thursday. Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday — “maundy” being a shortened form of *mandatum* (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He gave this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and He was washing their feet when He stated:

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)*

As we look forward to Easter morning and the celebration of Christ's resurrection, this is also a day to give thanks. Give thanks to the Lord for loving us. Give thanks to Jesus for willingly dying to cover our sins with His blood. Give thanks to God for raising His Son from the dead so we can have new life with Him and have it abundantly. Give thanks to the Lord for providing for us. Give thanks to the Lord for caring for us. Give thanks to the Lord for never leaving us. Give thanks to the Lord for (*add your own reasons*): \_\_\_\_\_.

Give thanks to the Lord because His steadfast love endures forever and ever, Amen.

### **SUPPLICATION TO GOD:**

Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Matthew 7: 7-8 commands us:

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* (NIV)

Pour your heart out to God. Tell Him all your needs, your worries, your requests. Ask Him to answer and intervene, and to do so according to His great power, infinite wisdom and incomprehensible love. Remember to pray for leaders, for the health and strength of marriages and families, for the physical and financial needs of others, for those who do not know Christ to come to trust Him as Savior, and for all of us as Redeemer's Fellowship—for our spiritual health and growth.

Colossians 1:9-14 reminds us to pray for things other than what we normally do. (We usually pray for physical health, for a change in our circumstances, and for provision of perceived needs.) The apostle Paul redirects us to pray:

- 1) that we'd have clarity about what God wants for our lives (1:9)
- 2) that we'd live a life worthy of Christ and pleasing to God (1:10-14)

More specifically, he wants us to ask God that we would:

- a) *bear fruit*—that we'd live a compelling life that makes a difference (vs. 10a)
- b) *increase* in the knowledge of who God is and what He's like (vs. 10b)
- c) *be strengthened* and empowered to joyfully endure (vs. 11)
- d) *give thanks* to God, being grateful for all God has done for us (vss. 12-14)

*Our Father in Heaven, we come before you on bended knee, humbly asking for your blessing and guidance; we ask for protection against the COVID19 virus, and beyond that we ask for a great awakening here in Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon and all across our great nation. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will convict, challenge, inspire, and fill the people of America. We pray that people will be drawn into their churches, and driven to their knees. Our hope is in You, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We boldly pray that believers across this nation will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be empowered to spread the Gospel message throughout our town, our county, our state and our nation. We pray for new believers to rise up, filled with the Spirit, to stand with us as we watch You restore order and peace to our town, our county our state, and our nation. God Bless America.*

*We pray for our Elders and leaders, volunteers, and everyone who is, has been, or will be involved in helping to guide Redeemer's Fellowship through this pandemic. Lord help us to minister to each other along the way as we seek to follow You and grow as whole hearted followers of Jesus who love You, who love each other, and love our church. You know, Father, that we are eager to get back to normal, to be able to gather together without limits or masks, to sing, and worship, and bring praises and offerings to our God and Savior. As we wait, sometimes not so patiently, for that day we ask that You protect us all from the Evil One; help us to seek Your wisdom and love; have joy in our tasks and challenges. Use each person who serves to reach beyond what they think possible, for Your own glory. And Lord, we pray especially for the health care workers, first*

*responders and all those on the front lines of this battle against COVID. Lord we pray for all students and their teachers in public and private schools, home schools and those learning on-line. Lord keep all them safe from this virus as they serve. We also pray for complete and total healing for those who have or will have the virus. And we pray for those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. Give them comfort and peace as only You can do. We love You Lord, and we know You love us more. Thank You for Your hand of protection, for Your guidance, for Your Word, and for Your peace which passes all understanding. Our trust is in You, Lord.*

*Lord Jesus, we love You and we know You love us more. On this Maundy Thursday help to focus our love as You commanded us to do when You celebrated the Passover supper with Your disciples. Three times You gave this command after You washed their feet. Three times in the Book of John – John 13:34; John 15:12; and John 15:17 – you said “love one another.” Help us, Lord, to love one another just as You have loved us. Always. Thank You, Jesus!*

**As you continue to pray, you might use this prayer to stimulate your own prayers:**

*Lord God, You are older than the stars. You are called “The Ancient of Days,” and before time began You existed forever. You created our world and everything in it. By Your word the sun and stars and heavenly bodies and the entire universe appeared. By Your word the dry land, the oceans and the mountains came into existence. You spoke and living things at once existed — plants, trees, animals, birds and fish. By Your own hand You created man from the dust of the earth and from man, made woman. You breathed life into them, gave them a spirit and a soul, and they lived. You created them to be husband and wife and to love one another as You have loved us. Your creation continues to this day. Long after this world is done, You still will be God.*

*You are alive as no other; in fact all life has its source in You. With every birth, we see the marks of Your creative genius. With every death, we are reminded that our hours are in Your hands. You give breath to every living thing, and when You take it away, our days end.*

*You know us better than we know ourselves, love us better than we love ourselves, and order all things according to the pleasure of Your will. Every pleasant thing in our lives, every answer to prayer, every provision of need, every friend we enjoy and every trouble we escape is a sign of Your steady goodness.*

*We confess that we tend to take for granted all You have done for us. You have been so good for so long that we expect Your gracious gifts to continue. We confess that at times we have lost sight of Your purposes for us, and have instead become enamored with our expected standard of living. We have lived for pleasures and diversions, but have forgotten that people around us are without forgiveness and hope; their eternal future is eclipsed by our present convenience. Forgive us.*

*We want to be more responsive to the promptings of Your Spirit, and less enslaved to the plans and to-do lists of the day. We want Your Word to fill our minds, to bubble up in our quiet moments, reminding us who You are, who we are, and the directions You*

*intend for us to go. We want to see You work in us that so yesterday's failures and frustrations have less control over us tomorrow. We want You to work through us to do those things that are lasting. And we want You to work apart from us, to see Your power and glory evidenced in ways that strike awe in our hearts and remind us that You alone are God.*

*Thank You, Lord, for our church and for each person woven into the fabric of this fellowship. Thank You for each new person who enriches us with fresh stories of Your working. May those who are seeking You in our midst find You; may each one come to understand and believe You are the Savior, the giver of grace, the one who changes hearts and restores relationships. Thank You for each person who serves our children and our young people, who love them and care about what happens to them spiritually in the days ahead. Thank You for those who serve us in hundreds of practical ways, but who rarely are seen or thanked. God, may You whisper to them how important they are and what they do. Thank You for the generosity and faithfulness of each person who gives; may You out-give them, Lord!*

*Thank You for our Elders, pastors, and ministry leaders who love us and so faithfully serve us as a church. God we ask for Your hand of protection to be on each one of them. Protect them from the schemes of the Evil One; keep them safe from COVID; we pray that they would shepherd us with Your wisdom and love; that they would have joy in their tasks and callings. Use them beyond what they'd ever think possible, for Your own glory.*

*Father, we pray for Pastor Billy as he serves us during this pandemic. We have seen him lean on You for strength, courage, help, and comfort as he has faced many unusual situations due to COVID. Lord Jesus, continue to be with Billy; give him wisdom and peace as we pray for the day we will all be back together, singing and praising You, and giving thanks to You for guiding us through the pandemic.*

*We pray, Father, for our staff and all the volunteers who serve us here at Redeemer's. You have assembled an amazing team, and we ask You to guide them and bless them. Help them to continue to rely on You and Your Word to accomplish Your will for Your people here in Roseburg. Put Your banner of protection around them and their families. We are grateful for them, Father. We pray for each person who worships with us to use their gifts and talents to serve You and the church. Help them to see the needs, answer the call, and join us as servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, here at Redeemer's Fellowship.*

*Father, we lift up and ask Your blessing on the Good News Club that is serving children and parents in Douglas County. We are grateful to the leaders and volunteers who are introducing Jesus to the children and helping them to understand that He is their Savior. Thank You, Father, for each child who is growing in understanding of who You are and for those who make a commitment to Christ and are baptized. And we thank You for each Good News Club volunteer who gives their time and talent in service to the children and the Lord.*

Now, Lord, we ask that You would provide for those of us who are serving You elsewhere:

*For Sarah, as she and many of her friends face increasing government opposition to their presence in their Asian country. We pray for clarity as she discerns God's direction for her ministry to the people she is equipped to reach. Encourage those she is connecting with via video and distance communication while she is here in Roseburg. Like many others, she has been stateside for over a year because of Covid restrictions around the world.*

*For Dave and Bethany, who have been in the US since Christmas. Pray that they will get the green light from leadership to return to their Asian country at some point this summer. Pray for Lucy as she does her Asia-based international schooling online while they are in the US. Allow the time they are in Roseburg to be fruitful, restful, and encouraging. May we welcome them while they are here and remember them when they return.*

*For Matt and Angela as they serve using education as a platform for sharing the Good News of Jesus. We pray for the new students who have enrolled in the school and that Matt and Angela could have a spiritual impact on their families. We also pray for them as they have recently moved closer to the metropolitan area. We pray for health, for provision of students, and for the difficult task of running an international English-based school during a pandemic.*

*For Jason and Kaely as they serve university athletes and coaches in the Pacific Northwest. We thank You for the opportunity they have to impact coaches and athletes who are struggling with the racial/cultural issues of the day, and who have sought out Athletes in Action to assist them in addressing the issue from a faith-based platform.*

*For David and Kristin, that they would be encouraged. They had hoped to be with us for this Day of Prayer, and the Easter season, but COVID re-entry expectations are forcing them to delay their arrival to Roseburg until the Fall. COVID has also hindered their ability to develop relationships with individuals in Aberdeen, Scotland. We pray that You would open doors and that they would see individuals interested in spiritual conversations, that groups would start, and that Your Church would grow.*

*For Steve and Sharon as they have been recently granted the "green light" to return to Papua, New Guinea where they both serve in the Wycliffe missionary school. Guide them with paperwork, visas, and travel plans as they seek to return in time to prepare for the next school year.*

*For Roduel and Hilda as they continue seeing the fruit of their discipleship efforts in the Ixcán region of Guatemala. We pray for the post-COVID reopening of the Bible School, and we pray that the pastors and communities will continue to be equipped to reach others for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are thankful that You have provided through the assistance of so many during the destruction wrought by two massive hurricanes that hit the region in the fall. We pray specifically about*

*the future of the ministries that they have launched in Ixcán, for the teams that return in the future, and for the churches to be strengthened.*

*Help others in our church and community who are even now considering how they will partner with bringing the Good News of Jesus to the nations. May each of our partners find encouragement in doing Your work, and may they also know of our love for them as they are serving You.*

*Lord, you know that this pandemic has brought suffering to many more people than usual. There are many among us who are suffering physically, spiritually and/or financially. We ask for Your healing power to come upon them. We pray that as the Great Physician You'll work in and through the doctors, nurses and medicines, and with miracles, as necessary to heal those who are ill. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would be alive and powerful in the lives of those who need spiritual uplifting. And we pray that those who need financial help would find the blessings they need through work, support, and miracles. Through all this we pray that Your Name would be glorified so all would know that You are the author of life, salvation and love. Lord, we ask for Your blessings on the Compassion team (formerly the Benevolence team) as they reach out to help folks in need.*

*We pray especially for those who have lost loved ones and were not able to be present as they passed from death to eternal life and/or have a meaningful memorial or funeral service. We take comfort in knowing the loved ones who know You are in Your presence now. And we ask for an extra measure of comfort and peace for those who are grieving.*

*Father, we are grateful for all the faithful couples whose marriages are thriving in our fellowship. We ask You to continue be the center of these relationships, and bless the couples who love You and love each other. We know that some marriages among us are struggling, so we ask that they would turn to You for wisdom and guidance and love. Bring new life into those relationships so they can honor their commitment to You and to each other. We pray also for the widows and widowers among us. We pray that You would bless, protect and comfort them with the peace that surpasses all understanding, and we thank You for the hope they have in You. We pray for those who have suffered through divorce, and we thank You that Your love, grace, and forgiveness cover them and help them to rebuild their lives.*

*We pray for the many families who are having babies in this season of their lives. We pray for new parents, for veteran parents and for all the babies born into our fellowship. And we pray for our children's and youth programs, their leaders and volunteers, who will help shape these lives for You.*

*Lord, the world does look very dark right now, but we will always focus on Your light of hope and truth. We know what's at the end! And we pray that we'd take the window of opportunity to present clearly the Good News of Jesus. May many, many individuals pass from death to life because of Your working through us!*

*Father God, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we pray that we'll remember all You have done for us. We pray that when our family*

*and friends look on us this year they will see Jesus. And we pray especially that those who do not know You will see something of Jesus in us that will allow Him to draw them into a personal saving relationship with Him.*

*Thank You God, for all You are, and all You have done. Thank You for Your promises and Your unfailing love. Thank You that because of Christ, You will never treat us as our sins deserve. Thank You that You will never leave or abandon us. With hearts of gratitude, we pray confidently in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Don't withhold anything from God. Tell Him anything and everything that concerns you. Entrust to Him your specific requests and ask Him to work according to His great love, His limitless power, His perfect wisdom and will.

### ***DEDICATION TO GOD:***

End your time of prayer with communion, remembering that Jesus died in your place to bring you to God; you are forgiven and accepted in Him! Use these words from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 as your communion guide:

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

As you prepare to leave, ponder this thought adapted from a commentary on Mark 15:39 in *A Closer Walk New Testament, Walk Through the Bible Ministries*:

*There is no greater success story, no greater victory, no greater conquest than the Resurrection. The day Christ rose from the grave was the day the apparent tragedy of His crucifixion was transformed into eternal triumph!*

*And as if that weren't enough, there's more. Christ's resurrection makes His success story your success story because He lives in you.*

*He lives in the lives of all Christians who know the truth of this verse: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20 ESV)*

*That's a success story with new chapters being written every day.*

*One of those chapters is reserved for you. How will today's page read?*



This Maundy Thursday, as we look forward to a Blessed Easter Sunday, may your heart be filled with gratitude for your Savior, and may your heart be flooded with hope.

**Go in peace!**