



Dear Faith Family,

Lent is the season in the church year given to reflection, repentance and prayer. It extends from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday in preparation for our celebration of Jesus Christ on Resurrection Sunday (aka Easter!) This Lent we are encouraging all of our faith family to intentionally ponder what it means when Jesus says “Follow me.” The following collection of prayers is intended to aid in that consideration. Most of the prayers are written by members of our own local body of Christ. They are offered anonymously to keep the focus on Jesus rather than any other personality, as well as to create a safe environment for individuals to share those things closest to their hearts. Also included are prayers from a few of our forefathers and mothers in the faith who are currently in the physical presence of Jesus. This is to remind us that we are part of a vast heritage of followers – some before us and others behind us. There are 40 prayers – one for each day of Lent which (for those of you who are counting) excludes Sundays. Some are prayers of confession, others of adoration, supplication and thanksgiving. May God unite us in our following of Jesus Christ through the gift of prayer.

Pastor Shelley

Lent, 2018

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Heavenly Father, you are our Mighty Rock in this weary land. You are faithful, trustworthy and loving with an unconditional love like we experience with none other.

I confess I fail to stand strong for you in so many situations throughout each day. I don't seem to truly comprehend the sacrifice you made in giving your only, perfect, Son to suffer, shed His blood, and be ridiculed by humans for my salvation. What an extravagant love you lavished on this unworthy person!

I thank you for your plan to pursue me to become a follower of yours, forgive my sins, live within me, and intercede on my behalf so I can live with you eternally as your child. These blessings are beyond my imagination and dreams.

I ask that you will help me continue to be teachable so you can mold me into the "little Christ" you want me to be. Please help me to draw closer to you and glorify your Name as I remember the events that took place in my Savior's life.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

Thursday, February 15

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that you meet us in prayer. Lord, you know everything about us, even the things we are hiding from ourselves. Once we have acknowledged to ourselves our shortcomings, we can make a sincere confession of our sins to you. Father, there are so many ways we sin whether it be through bad temper, impatience, faultfinding, sarcasm, unkindness, suspicion, dishonesty, selfishness, laziness, jealousy, and indifference to name a few. Help us to be quick to repent, for it is through humble confession that our hearts are able to accept and experience your forgiving love.

We make our prayer in the faith that you are God, and that your grace and strength are enough for our every need.

Help us to seek your plan for our lives as we strive to follow your word and your will. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Friday, February 16

Lord - you are good and you are perfect in every way. In the middle of everything that is going on around us, we need to remember this! We want and need to praise and adore you for Who you truly are - the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Before you created the world you sat on your throne in perfect power, might, justice, and mercy. We praise and glorify you because you have not changed. You are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We may not understand your plans or purposes in our lives, the lives of our loved ones, our community, nation, and world. Still we praise and honor you because we know you are in complete control of every situation. You are the source of every good and every perfect gift! You are our conqueror, our defender, our righteousness.

You hear our every prayer and answer each of them for your glory and what is best for us! May you be praised and glorified now and forevermore! Amen.

Revelation 17:14 James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8; James 5:16; Philippians 2:13; Romans 8:28

Saturday, February 17

Oh! for a closer walk with GOD,
A calm and heav'nly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the LORD?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of JESUS, and his word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoy'd
How sweet their mem'ry still!
But they have left an aching void,
The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be;
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with GOD,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

- William Cowper (1731-1800)

Lee, Stephen. *Puritan Prayers, Poems & Meditations*. (Kindle 561-586).

Monday, February 19

God in Heaven, you are merciful, loving, and gracious. Have mercy on me!

I am in need of you to wash and cleanse me from all of my sins.

I am comforted in your unwavering love for me.

I am appealing to your abundant mercy for my forgiveness.

I struggle daily with my brokenness, which is clearly evident in my pride and lack of self-denial. Against you and you alone have I sinned and done evil in your sight. You are a holy and just God who set me apart to be holy. You would be justified to judge me for my sins even though I am your child.

I was born a sinner and knew nothing else before you redeemed me. But now, I know that you are the God of truth and desire for me to have that truth in my innermost being. You have written your truth upon my heart. Only you can clean me from the stench of death. Only you can wash me whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins and remove my guilt from me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit (Psalm 51).

Holy Father, in Jesus name alone can I seek your forgiveness. Amen.

Tuesday, February 20

Heavenly Father, I am so thankful and blessed to have had your care all my life. I am now, as you know, retired, with your loving arms around me. My memories reflect today back to when I was six years old, attending Sunday School – memorizing Bible verses and learning the childhood song, “This Little Light.” That Light has always been with me. Today that Light to me is the Holy Spirit that has a special place in my heart. I sometimes think of it as your G.P.S. (God’s Personal Spot). Your love shines so brightly there and never needs recharging, but I do! I know that I must keep my focus daily on you. I am so thankful that I can walk and talk with. You any time or anywhere. I know that Jesus is the Light of the World, so large that his love covers the universe and so small it stays in my heart. Each day is special with Your guidance. I am so blessed. I pray that I will let Your Light shine through my words and actions so that others can see Your love.

In Your Precious Name, amen.

Wednesday, February 21

Praise the LORD!

*¹I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever! Ps 111:1-10*

Thankfully, we remember the sacrifice of Your gracious Son, the Lord Jesus, who gave us the right to become sons of God with access to You, the Most High. Likewise, we welcome the abiding presence of Your Spirit, who leads us to pray rightly.

Teach us Your ways, O God, that we would walk in the path You have put before us; that we would become like Your Son, in loving You and all those who come into our lives. May we be used by You to minister to them. Amen.

Thursday, February 22

Heavenly Father, as a dearly loved child whom you have chosen to be your own, I confess that I am frequently ungrateful. While I joyfully receive your forgiveness for my many sins, I do not easily forgive others. I frequently resent the calling of service to various family members who need my help, and I become critical. I resent that my time is not my own... until I remember the One who has given me that time. Lord, forgive me for my ungrateful heart. Give me instead your heart. Fill me with joy in the work to which you have called me. Let me remember you and your amazing love for me, and let that love pour out through me into the lives of those you have called me to serve. Amen.

Friday, February 23

Lord Jesus, I am amazed that you have chosen me to be yours. You made me miserable with my former life, created great distress and restlessness so that I was open to listen. Once I responded you started training me, teaching me, correcting me, and maturing me. Now I am a seasoned Christian and able to represent you, to teach others, to bear fruit for your kingdom. How ingenious are your designs! How patient you are with us, enduring my petty and sinful thoughts, my deep self-centeredness, my reluctance to get close to you, my cravings for applause and comfort, and so much more! How can you be so gracious? Yet you are. Your lovingkindness is gentle and supportive, and so I go on day after day, confessing my shortcomings and accepting your forgiveness and love. Each day you go before us, creating the good works that we are to walk in; you “train our hands for battle,” giving us skills that are useful to others. And what a pleasure it is to exercise my gifts! My particular mix of personality and experience and physical traits and genes combine to fill a specific role in your kingdom that is marked out specifically for me, and so it is with every believer. How much fun is that!

As we delight in you, you give us the desires of our hearts. My life has never been richer, I have never been happier than I am today. Why do you bless us so much? I am very eager to see you face to face to get more of an understanding of how sweet you are. Amen.

Saturday, February 24

Blessed Father! You are love, and only he who dwells in love can come into fellowship with You. Your blessed Son has taught me again how deeply true this is. O my God! Let the Holy Spirit flood my heart with Your love. Be a fountain of love inside me that flows out to everyone around me. Let the power of believing prayer spring out of this life of love. O my Father! Grant by the Holy Spirit that this love may be the gate through which I find life in Your love. Let the joy with which I daily forgive whomever might offend me be the proof that Your forgiveness is my power and life.

Lord Jesus! Blessed Teacher! Teach me how to forgive and to love. Let the power of Your blood make the pardon of my sins a reality so that Your forgiveness of me and my forgiveness of others may be the very joy of heaven. Point out the weaknesses in my relationships with others that might hinder my fellowship with God. May my daily life at home and in society be the school in which strength and confidence are gathered for the prayer of faith. Amen.

- Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

Andrew Murray. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Whitaker House, 1981, p. 110.

Monday, February 26

I confess to you, dear Lord, that I have lived purposefully distant from you. Every day passes with a conscious decision to not draw closer to you because I am afraid of having to admit I am not in control; I do not have the final word; and I am not the decision maker.

I am grateful knowing that you will continue to be patient with me, Lord. I am learning that the love, security, peace, and forgiveness I keep trying to create through my own actions are gifts you have already given to us all. You simply await our acceptance of them. Thank you for your faithful love. Amen.

Tuesday, February 27

Dear Everlasting, Unchanging God,

Thank you for giving up your precious Son so I might have everlasting life in spite of my sin and imperfections. Thank you for loving me like an only child when I can't love myself. Thank you for waiting until I slowly, and sometimes painfully, learn that your way is the right way; and I cannot control anyone, or anything, but myself.

I am working on being thankful for my troubles, especially my wayward child who is breaking my heart. Thank you for showing me that there can be joy and beauty and blessings in spite of my troubles, and for strengthening my faith when I wait on your timing (even though WAIT is a four letter word that gives me a constant struggle). I know that you will always be there for me.

Thank you for each day that I have and for teaching me to appreciate things like a new life, a beautiful flower, a breath-taking sunset. You are my Wonderful Counselor, my Savior, and my Friend, who faithfully supplies all my needs. Amen.

Wednesday, February 28

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you: I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me... Restore me to liberty, and enable me to live now, that I may answer before you and before me. Lord, whatever this day may bring, Your name be praised.

– *Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) Written while incarcerated in a Nazi prison, uncertain of what his future would hold.*

<https://ilifejourney.wordpress.com/2012/04/19/bonhoeffers-prayer/>

Thursday, March 1

Dear Heavenly Father – When I gaze into the vastness of the starry heavens or when I marvel at the beauty and complexity of your creation, you reveal yourself to me.

I believe Lord, forgive my unbelief!

You have shown me the depths of your love as a baby in a manger and as my Savior who died for me on the cross. I love you Lord, forgive me when I deny you!

You have blessed me beyond measure with resources and gifts with which to serve you and serve my neighbor. I am your servant Lord, forgive me when I choose to serve only myself!

You have guided my path all the days of my life and you have promised to never ever let me go. I will follow you Lord, forgive me when I choose my own path!

When I stand in your glory Lord – I am undone! When I consider my sinful ways – I am undone!

Please make me whole again Father, restore my soul!

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost I pray. Amen!

Friday, March 2

1. Sometimes a light surprises
The Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord who rises
With healing in his wings:
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again,
A season of clear shining,
To cheer it after rain.

2. In holy contemplation,
We sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation,
And find it ever new:
Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say,
E'en let th' unknown to-morrow
Bring with it what it may.

3. It can bring with it nothing
But he will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing,
Will clothe his people too:
Beneath the spreading heavens,
No creature but is fed;
And he who feeds the ravens,
Will give his children bread.

4. Though vine nor fig-tree neither
Their wonted fruit shall bear,
Though all the field should wither,
Nor flocks nor herds be there:
Yet God the same abiding,
His praise shall tune my voice;
For while in him confiding,
I cannot but rejoice.

- John Newton (1725-1807)

Saturday, March 3

Heavenly Father,

You are faithful. *“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”*

(Lamentations 3:22-23)

You call me to be faithful also. I try, but I keep forgetting or neglecting people and discipline.

Help me Father to be faithful...

... in prayer for those I've promised to pray for

... in study of your Word

... in communication with and encouragement to children and grandchildren

... in service to elderly or sick friends

... in fellowship with friends

... in a healthy lifestyle

Thank you for loving me and hearing my prayer. Amen.

Monday, March 5

Lord, I realize that I should be constantly praising you for the blessings you have given me. The pain of others makes me acutely aware of how fortunate I am to have a God who loves me and cares for me and to whom I can turn at any time for the guidance and consolation I seek. There are problems in my life which I could point to and dwell on until I make myself miserable and lonely. But I cannot do that in good conscience when I know there are people in my life who care for me and want the best for me and would listen to me whether I whine or cheer – whichever I choose to do. And I know that you are there to hear my thoughts as well whenever I turn to you. You wait for me to make that decision to place myself and all my concerns in your hands, and then you console me or lead me or correct me – whichever you choose to do. My help is there for me – why don't I ask for it as my first resort rather than my last? I know that my fears are usually cloaked in such guises as dread or procrastination or humor, but none of those things take away my fears. They just postpone fear, or mask it, until I can face it.

Lord, help me to face up to the disagreeable parts of my life and the decisions I need to make, and help me know that you are there with me to make the tough times bearable rather than avoidable. Continue to make me aware of you and your love, and how you show me that I am loved and lovable. I long to express that awareness in my actions and words and thoughts. Help me to be the vessel for your outpouring Spirit and the instrument through which your song may be sung. Amen.

Tuesday, March 6

What shall I render to Thy name
Or how Thy praises speak?
My thanks how shall I testify?
O Lord, Thou know'st I'm weak.
I owe so much, so little can
Return unto Thy name,
Confusion seizes on my soul,
And I am filled with shame.
O Thou that hearest prayers, Lord,
To Thee shall come all flesh
Thou hast me heard and answered,
My plaints have had access.
What did I ask for but Thou gav'st?
What could I more desire?
But thankfulness even all my days
I humbly this require.
Thy mercies, Lord, have been so great
In number numberless,
Impossible for to recount
Or any way express.
O help Thy saints that sought Thy face
T' return unto Thee praise
And walk before Thee as they ought,
in strict and upright ways.

- Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)

Wednesday, March 7

Most gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we praise you for loving us and desiring to intimately fellowship with us, your children.

Father we thank you that even when we sin against you and go into the darkness away from our fellowship with you, you are always open to hear our confession and admittance of our sin and are quick to bring us back into the light and back into fellowship with you.

Although we don't feel worthy to walk with you and be loved by you, we stand in awe that you desire that relationship with us in love that we cannot fathom. We praise you that by this love you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, the promised Messiah to shed his blood for each of us to bring us into eternal intimate relationship with you by believing in him for it. We pray Father, that through the power of the Holy Spirit you will continue to convict us when we sin and bring us to prompt and genuine confession of that sin so that we may always remain in constant fellowship with you, learning your ways, carrying out your will in our lives and bringing glory to Jesus Christ in all that we say and do. Amen.

Thursday, March 8

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please forgive us for our wrong doings that cause us guilt and weigh us down. Jesus showed us the life God intended us to live and He asked us to follow Him. We have fallen short, but we are grateful that you love us so deeply that you have given us a "pathway out" of our wrong doings and a way to do better.

Help us to confess our actions that are not in harmony with what you have asked us to do. Empower us to avoid wrong doings and to ask, sincerely, for your forgiveness with the intentions to do better: We have been assured that you will forgive us and allow our souls to heal. Help us, also, to forgive others, so they too, can begin to heal. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Friday, March 9

My Dearest, Loving Heavenly Father

I come to praise you for the many miracles You have shown me in my life time – Your Grace is truly Amazing, and I cannot put into words how you have touched my life. For years I believed and wanted to do all I could to please You. Then one very special day – I came to know you personally. Thank you for opening my eyes and my heart. I adore You and can't seem to learn all the wondrous things I want to know about You. After all, You died a horrible death for every one and Your Father raised You from the dead and I was free from my sin!

I know I don't come near to living the kind of life I should live, but I know I'm forgiven. I'm so glad you don't give up on me when I disappoint You. Thank You for loving me and sticking with me until I can become the person You created me to be. I ask You to help me so that when I meet You in Heaven one day You can say, "Well done my daughter." With all my heart I thank You. In my loving Savior's name I pray. Amen.

Saturday, March 10

O God, our Father and Savior, who of thy goodness has watched over us during the past night, and brought us to this day, grant also that we may spend it wholly in thy service. Let us not think, or say, or do a single thing that does not tend to thy service and submission to thy will; that thus all our actions may aim in the glory of thy name and the salvation of our brethren. And as thou do give the light of the sun to this world, so enlighten our minds and hearts by thy Spirit that he may guide us in the way of thy righteousness.

To whatever purpose we apply our minds, may the end and the intention be thy honor and service. May we expect happiness only from thy goodness. Let us not attempt anything, O God that is not pleasing to thee. Grant us also, Lord, that while we labor for the maintenance of this life and its concerns, we may raise our minds above them to the blessed and heavenly life, which thou hast promised to thy children.

Be pleased also, in manifesting thyself to us as our Protector, to strengthen us against the assaults of the devil, and deliver us from all the dangers which continually beset us in this life. But seeing it is a small thing to have begun well unless we also persevere, we entreat thee, O Lord, to be our Guide and Director not only for this day for the days of our lives. Increase the gifts of thy grace until we wholly adhere to thy Son Jesus Christ, who is the true Sun lighting our minds. In order that we may obtain from thee these great and manifold blessings, forget, and out of thy infinite mercy, forgive our offenses, as thou has promised that thou will do to those who call upon thee with a sincere heart. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

- John Calvin (1509-1564)

Monday, March 12

Lord, I am ashamed when I think how quickly I take credit when things in my life are going well yet pass judgment on others whose lives are an apparent mess because of their own perceived short-comings. Forgive me for those times when I have neglected to recognize you as the source of all blessings in my life. Help me to avoid a life of complacency, or forgetting about you when life is easy and returning only when things are difficult. Place in my life opportunities to reflect on your goodness and love and how to apply the resulting gratitude in ways that show your influence in my spirit and my care for others. Destroy in me all thoughts of superiority over or disdain for those who struggle to achieve a sense of worth in themselves when I know that our “worthiness” is only a reflection of your love and care for us. Teach me to live in a spirit of constant thankfulness and awareness that it is only from you that all blessings flow, and to recognize your hand at work in all things. Amen.

Tuesday, March 13

God, how wonderful it is to know you are love... it's even more wonderful to experience your great love! I am so undeserving of your love. You have died on the cross for me, insignificant me.

Thank you for your amazing power and work in me. That you would entrust children to me to raise in your name... it humbles me.

God, how wonderful are your blessings, overflowing, that I may have your abundant life. Thank you for your loving hand that teaches me to follow you. And most of all thank you for your grace and forgiveness. That you love my unworthy self so much as to forgive me more than 70x7 times is beyond my belief.

So let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 54:15). Amen.

Wednesday, March 14

All I know right now is to cry ABBA, FATHER!

Praying and knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes on my behalf when I just cannot find words. I am lost and insecure and overwhelmed, and I ask for comfort that only You can give. Forgive me for this cluttered mind and my inability to focus on You and Your word. Abba. Abba. Abba. Amen.

Thursday, March 15

Mighty God, I humble myself for faculties misused,
opportunities neglected, words ill-advised,
I repent of my folly and inconsiderate ways,
my broken resolutions, untrue service,
my backsliding steps, my vain thoughts.
O bury my sins in the ocean of Jesus' blood
and let no evil result from my fretful temper,
unseemly behavior, provoking pettiness.
If by unkindness I have wounded or hurt another;
do thou pour in the balm of heavenly consolation;
If I have turned coldly from need, misery, grief,
do not in just anger forsake me:
If I have withheld relief from penury and pain,
do not withhold thy gracious bounty from me.
If I have shunned those who have offended me,
keep open the door of thy heart to my need.
Fill me with an over-flowing ocean of compassion,
the reign of love my motive, the law of love my rule.
O thou God of all grace, make me more thankful,
more humble;
Inspire me with a deep sense of my unworthiness
arising from the depravity of my nature,
my omitted duties, my unimproved advantages,
thy commands violated by me.
With all my calls to gratitude and joy may I remember
that I have reason for sorrow and humiliation;
O give me repentance unto life;
Cement my oneness with my blessed lord,
that faith may adhere to him more immovably,
that love may entwine itself round him more tightly,
that his Spirit may pervade every fiber of my being.
Then send me out to make him known to my fellow-men.

Friday, March 16

Dear Sovereign God of the universe,

I praise you for your glory, your power, your wisdom, your goodness, your presence, and your comfort. Most of all, I praise you for salvation through your precious and perfect Son, Jesus. I ask the Holy Spirit to pray with me and guide me as I seek your will. Empty me of myself and give me the words to speak as I humbly enter your presence.

I confess that I am sinful and broken, but I trust you, Jesus, that you are inwardly renewing me day by day.

I trust you, Jesus, to plant your desires in me and to teach me to lean on you and, therefore, deepen my dependence on you.

I trust you, Jesus, to help me be still and know that you are God; in your presence, I trust you, Jesus, to change my heart, and as you do, I feel great joy and thanksgiving.

I trust you, Jesus, to mold my attitude, my countenance, and my actions to reflect your glory and to be your witness to the world.

In every trial and every situation, I trust you, Jesus.

In a chaotic and uncertain world, I trust you, Jesus.

In every fearful and unknown circumstance, I trust you, Jesus, for you are enough—you are all.

May all glory, laud and honor be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saturday, March 17

Father, you know me, every hair on my head, every move I make or thought I have or have ever had. I fall; you pick me up again and again. I struggle with discipline and focus and you rein me in to come closer. A light in the darkness, you guide me, as my Father and King, to see that the truth in every challenge of the heart is your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. You, and only you, could make as great a sacrifice for all of your children. I pray we are able to open our hearts daily to see clearly that the only way is through you and walking with you is the greatest of all gifts. As for me, there is much work to be done in my journey to become a better follower of Jesus. I pray your help to be stronger and more committed, as I know I am powerless without you Father. I ask this in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.

Monday, March 19

Lord, please forgive our deep, dark selfishness. We freely spend our time and money on our personal kingdom filled with our wants and desires. We demand comfort and personal choice. We quickly discount other people's needs when they encroach upon our wants. We feel threatened and anxious anytime the priorities of our kingdom are questioned.

Lord, crush us with an awareness of who you are and what you have done for us. Lord, free us from the weight of ruling our broken kingdom of one. Draw us into your story of restoration and love. Release us from our self-obsession. Show us the peace found in serving you alone. Fill the void in our hearts with the fullness of your love. Amen.

Tuesday, March 20

Thank you, God, that you are in control and that your timing is perfect. Your timing is not our human timing; we want our blessings to come easily and quickly.

In our life we have experienced the joyful, long awaited births of our three little blessings. At times, our identity got misplaced into our own wants and timing as well as in guilt and blame; we asked ourselves why we were different from our peers who had children already. Yet, our identity truly was, and is, in Christ who granted comfort in this difficult waiting period. We affirm that our relationship with you will be the solid rock, enabling us to weather any storm.

Through these difficult storms, we also have had the cloud of witnesses with which You surrounded us to help by providing a listening ear or offering words of encouragement. During this time of waiting, you were preparing us in your time to be parents who would make a family centered on you.

We thank you for the ability to be clay in your hand as we navigate our roles as parents. We are amazed by your love and give praise to you for your timing as we know *"that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28) Amen.

Wednesday, March 21

Lord, hear me when I cry to you and reassure me once again. Time and time again, circumstances and bad relationships overwhelm me and I lose sight of you and your promises. I believe you--I believe IN you--and my heart trusts you. But, Lord, my mind is restless and overloaded with the daily lists of things to do and bad news.

Forgive me for the way I make it about me. Know that my true desire is to follow you better. Comfort me through this because you are the Comforter. And because I know this doesn't mean I will be "comfortable." Continue to use my discomforts to grow me in faith and knowledge of who you are. Amen.

Thursday, March 22

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

- Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/road-peace/prayers-martin-luther-king-jr>



Friday, March 23

Father God,

You created us in a universe with more than 100 billion galaxies that stretches more than 100 light years across. Among all of the things we can see and measure, there is evidence of even more matter and energy that we cannot see. You are amazing! Beyond comprehension!

Within all of that universe, you also created an earth with a sun to light the day; a moon and stars to shine through the night; waters teeming with an abundance of creatures; land filled with plants and animals of all kinds; and, finally, a man and woman created in Your own image. And, despite all that you provided for us, we rebelled against you to seek our own ways.

Yet, you are amazing! Beyond comprehension!

You made a covenant with Your people to bring us back to you.

You gave Noah faith to survive the flood,

You called Abraham to follow You to a land of promise,

You provided a laughing Sarah with a child,

You enabled Moses to lead Your people out of slavery,

You made a king out of a shepherd boy, David, and, finally, you chose Mary to bear your Son, Jesus. Despite all of the temptations and trials he endured, he remained faithful to the end.

"Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." Amen.

(Revelation 4:11)

Saturday, March 24

O God, I have been reminded so many times today - in this one day - that the Holy Spirit is within me. Me. The power of Jesus Christ is living in this "temple"... That shouldn't be something I forget, Lord. You died on the cross, You ascended into heaven. You made the Holy Spirit a GIFT. I want to live into this truth.

All my hope is in you. Lord, I don't want to lose sight of you in the chaos of this world and daily problems. I don't want to feel overwhelmed. I want to feel empowered-because the Holy Spirit is in me and does empower me!

Use my human weaknesses to serve you, and let your strength and the Holy Spirit within me be something I am more and more aware of in my daily life. I need you, Lord. Amen.

Monday, March 26

Abba, Father, I am such a mess!

You've got your work cut out for you.

Lord, like Paul, I wrestle with my flesh.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do, no, the evil I do not want to do -- this I keep on doing. (Romans 7:18-19)

Or, like Jonah, *my pride makes me run from you.* (Jonah 1).

Or, like Peter, *I deny you in the way I live my life.* (Galatians 2:11-12).

But you, O Lord, are faithful to me.

Faithful to forgive and restore me.

Faithful in your loving kindness and mercy towards me.

So, Father, I ask you to create a new heart in me. Fill me with your Spirit that I may live in the power of the resurrection.

Thank you for loving me. Amen.

Tuesday, March 27

Behold, Lord,

An empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in faith;

Strengthen thou me.

I am cold in love;

Warm me and make me fervent

That my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith;

At times I doubt and am unable to trust thee altogether.

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in thee.

In thee I have sealed the treasures of all I have.

I am poor;

Thou art rich and didst come to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner;

Thou art upright.

With me there is an abundance of sin;

In thee is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with thee of who I can receive

But to whom I may not give.

- Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Wednesday, March 28

Oh God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. He gave every drop of blood and water in His body for us so we could return to you our Great Holy Father.

Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to live, move, and breathe in us, when we choose to accept Jesus into our hearts and to follow Him.

Thank you for the Bible that teaches us all about Jesus and how to live for Him. He provides all of our needs whether physical, emotional, or financial. He is our hero and our best friend and is always with us where ever we go. Unbelievable and amazing blessings flow down on us when we walk daily with him, allowing him to plan our days and nights. So much mercy, grace, and love with which he showers us. How could we not be so excited to face each new day as he transforms us into what he wants us to become. Jesus, you are everything to us. And with You life becomes an incredible adventure.

Oh Lord, please keep us off the paths of sin and on the right paths with you. And thank you for letting us be a part of your wonderful amazing plan at this place in time. All praise, love, and glory to you our Mighty Lord and King. Amen.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Father God, we are in awe of the many blessings you pour out on us every day. The sunshine on our face, the rain for dry fields, the food that nourishes our bodies and the love we share with one another.

Your Grace reaches out and touches us when we need it most and makes us believe in good in this world. Above all, we are most thankful for your son, Jesus, and your never-ceasing faith in our redemption even though we don't deserve it. Amen.

Good Friday, March 30

Lord our God, we are gathered here on this day to consider how you have carried out your good, firm will for the world and for all of us, by allowing our Lord Jesus Christ, your dear Son, to be captured that we might be free; to be found guilty that we might be found innocent; to suffer that we might rejoice; and to be given over to death that we might live forever.

Under our own power, we could only be lost. And we have not deserved such a rescue – no, not one of us. But in the inconceivable greatness of your mercy, you have shared in... our poverty, in order to do such a great thing for us. How else could we thank you but to grasp, take up, and acknowledge this great thing? How else should this happen, but that the same living Savior who suffered for us, was crucified, died, was buried, and was also raised up, should now come into our midst, speak to our hearts and minds, open us to your love, and guide us to trust in it completely and to live by it and by it alone.

So we ask you in all humility, but also in all confidence, that this happen in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Karl Barth (1886-1968)

Barth, Karl. *Fifty Prayers*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2005, p. 25.

Saturday, March 31

I will lift up my voice and praise you, my God and King, I will praise you forever and ever. Every day I will praise your name. For every day, I am astounded by my need for the grace you granted me through Jesus. You accepted me in my dreadful state and continue to change me and renew me. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. I do not deserve to be seen as righteous through Jesus, but You chose to pour out your mercy and grace on me.

Generation after generation has spread the truth of your works to the next. Every generation has declared your mighty acts. We cannot stay silent when your works are so wonderful. We cannot stay silent when you have given us Your Son. We cannot stay silent when you have called us to spread the news of your works. I am amazed when I think of the splendor of your majesty. I am in awe when I meditate on your power. My heart is changed and molded as I contemplate the power that lives in me. We shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

Psalm 145:1-6 is used as a basis for this prayer