

Psalm 25: 1-21

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; **do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; **let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

For your name's sake, O LORD, **pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

Who are they that fear the LORD? He will teach them the way that they should choose. They will abide in prosperity, and **their children shall possess the land.**

The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for **I am lonely and afflicted.** Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me. O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

May integrity and uprightness preserve me, **for I wait for you.**

O come Desire of nations bind
ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND

The lectionary has given us a prayer to pray as we begin the season of Advent. Or perhaps we can say, we have a prayer here which can wonderfully inform our own prayers as we enter into this season which is intended to put us in touch with our longing to experience God more deeply, more vividly.

This longing is a sign of your spiritual health by the way. The more deeply we are living in God, the more deeply we yearn for God. Our yearning for God is God's spirit in us, yearning to fill us with more of God. A yearning soul is a healthy soul, like a thirsty body. A thirsty body is doing its job, functioning properly, telling us we need to drink. A yearning soul is doing its job. "As the deer pants for water, so I long for you O God..." Psalm 42

Psalm 25 spills over with all manner of yearning.

I thought we might pray together with this prayer this morning. Here's how we might do that.

I've highlighted phrases we can touch upon like stepping stones from the beginning to the ending of this Psalm. I'll lead us as we step together on these stepping stones, using these stepping stones to inform this time together in prayer.

At each stepping stone, I'll offer a brief spoken prayer followed by a brief silence wherein you can silently formulate your own prayer. My spoken prayer may touch upon something very personal for you. Offer that to God in the brief silences.

Do not let my enemies exult over me-----Loving God tame the fears, quiet the fears in my heart and mind which are my most soul deforming enemies. Help me to love these fears into tranquility. Toward those who might consider me an adversary, or those who may feel estranged from me, keep me prayerfully open.

Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous-----May those intoxicated by power-the self aggrandizing, and the abusive of the vulnerable in our world become fully conscious of the pain and suffering they are causing----may they be humbled to repentance.

Make me to know your ways-----Open my eyes, my heart, my mind to more clearly see the ways in which, and the people and events through which, your grace and mercy and justice are manifesting in the world.

Do not remember the sins of my youth-----they continue to humble me. Where would I be, who would I be, without your grace O God?

Pardon my guilt, for it is great-----All have sinned. I confess my own to you Gracious God. For your forgiveness, more expansive than my failings, my weaknesses, I am eternally grateful.

Their children shall possess the land-----in a world of so many shadows, God, a world deformed by fear, violence and ignorance, we are mindful of how crucial it is to give our children and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews, and all those children in our circle of influence, a sense of your grace, alive in their hearts, your perfect image to be their ground, their wisdom, their joy... the land in which they dwell.

I am lonely and afflicted-----I carry grief, I carry anxiety, I carry depression, I carry anger in my spirit. These troubles isolate me. I withdraw. I judge. I build walls. I feel debilitated in my spirit God.

I wait for you-----Because of who you are and who you have shown yourself to be among your people, I know that all shall be well. I trust that even now, though I am distracted and blinded by many things, you are ever at work for good in the world, for reconciliation, for restorative justice, for peace.

"FOR YOU I WAIT ALL DAY LONG...."

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 2, 2018 First Sunday of Advent

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Though darkness covers the Earth, and dark night the nations
THE LORD SHALL SHINE UPON US, AND OVER US SHALL HIS GLORY APPEAR

Lighting of the Candles

"The true light that shines on all people was coming in to the world" John 1: 9

The sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor the moon shine when evening falls

THE LORD SHALL BE OUR EVERLASTING LIGHT

The days of our mourning shall be ended

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD WILL BRING THIS TO PASS

125 Come O Long Expected Jesus

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

132 When God is a Child vs 1

Sharing Christ's Peace

134 Emmanuel Emmanuel

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence "Your face, my Beloved, do I seek; hide not your face from me" Psalm 27

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

We stumble in the darkness. Light of the world, illumine us

WE FORGET THAT WE ARE YOUR HOME. SPIRIT OF GOD, DWELL IN US

THE LESSON PSALM 25: 1-21

The Meditation "I Lift Up My Soul" Rev. Rob Carr

Find us, searching God, wherever we hide.

Find us at prayer, sheltered in Your grace, singing of Your light and salvation.

Then, take us with a strong hand, and lead us on the right path, Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

133 Like a Child

Where can we hide from your Spirit, Companioning God?

OR FLEE FROM YOUR PRESENCE?

If we say that darkness will surely cover us

THE DARKNESS IS NOT DARK TO YOU.

NIGHT IS AS BRIGHT AS DAY; THEY ARE THE SAME TO YOU

Welcome to the Table

The Words of Institution

We lift our hands to you, our souls grasp for you as in a thirsty land

REVIVE US FOR YOUR NAME'S SAKE AND BRING US OUT OF OUR TROUBLE

Show us the road we must walk as we lift our souls to you

YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN THOSE WHO AWAIT YOUR GRACIOUS FAVOR.

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin

against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

Choral Benediction NOCC Choir

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the

Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWS WORSHIP TODAY

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Monday 630PM NOCC Elders at White Horse Pub

Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group

Tuesday 6PM Pack 900

Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry

UPCOMING

Next Sunday 6PM Talent Show

Friday December 14 6-8PM Kids Movie Night--parents night out.

Sunday December 16 Jubilation Ringers Featured in Worship

Sunday December 23 1015AM

NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Christmas Eve Carols and Communion by Candlelight 7PM and 11PM

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry
of our friends at CHERITH BROOK.

Baking Soda, Sugar, Creamer, Dish Soap, Rice, Salt and Pepper, Tissues, Toilet Paper,
Deodorant, Razors, Toothbrushes, Feminine Products, Ibuprofen and Tylenol,
Shower Gel, Sleeping Bags.

Special Need: An Industrial Refrigerator.

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light.

Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.