

Pearl River United Methodist Church Prayer Ministry



WELCOME

PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT

The Lit candle is a symbol of God's presence. We light this candle at our Prayer Service as a reminder that when two or more are gathered in his name, God is present.

Light and Peace in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us speak with our lips and proclaim with our mouths the greatness of our God.

God is, indeed, a great god who holds all creation.

The praise of God is a worthy task for our tongues.

We gladly employ them in worship of the Holy One.

The tongue was meant to bless God.

Blessing and power and might be to our God forever and ever.

May the voices that speak God's blessings always speak in ways pleasing to God.

May it be so in us, now and forever.

MUSIC AND MEDITATION

INVOCATION

O God who created us so that we might bless you and one another: Grant us so to know your love for us that we might not only worship you but speak blessings on our enemies as well as our friends; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer List

Let us Pray:

We bow before you, O God of all Creation, because of your awesome power and constant love. We see in our own bodies how lavish is your care. You have given us the ability to hear the sweet sounds of nature and the loving words of our friends. You have given us the gift of blessing, both to receive it and to give it. You are indeed a God of graciousness. You have shown so much love and care in creating all that exists, that it is in confidence that we offer up to you those who are on our hearts. We know that you care for us and desire to hear those things that touch our lives. We know that you, also, care for those who are hurting in this world. We lift up to you those of this congregation, those of our family and friends who do not worship with us, those who we hear about in the news and those whose pain is known only to you. As you minister to them in their need, soften our hearts that we may reach out to our neighbors in their troubles, as well. We lift our voices in prayer as we bless you and our fellow creatures in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together, saying, "Our Father ..."

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

THE GOD WHO BLESSES YOU THIS DAY SENDS YOU OUT INTO THE WORLD TO BLESS THOSE YOU ENCOUNTER. AS YOU SPEAK THE WORDS OF PEACE AND LOVE TO OTHERS YOU WILL FIND YOUR LIFE FILLED WITH THESE GIFTS, ALSO. GO WITH AND TO BE THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY. AMEN.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Born of Water and of the Spirit

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:12-13

The new birth John says (1:13) is "not of blood" - it cannot be inherited from the bloodstream of our parents. It is not "of the will of the flesh" - you cannot get it by the efforts of the will, lifting yourself by the bootstraps. It is not "of the will of man" - no man can give it to you, neither pastor nor priest nor pope. It is "of God." It is directly from God or not at all.

To Nicodemus Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and spirit" (John 3:5). The being "born of water" is the coming by baptism into an outer fellowship - the Christian fellowship; the being born of the Spirit is the inner birth. It is possible to be born of water and not be born of the Spirit - to be outwardly in and not inwardly in...A lot of people are horizontally converted, but not vertically converted; their labels changed but not their lives. The new birth means life and label changed.

Lifting oneself up by the bootstraps is impossibly hard work.

O God, I cannot tolerate this birth into a physical universe unless it is supplemented by a spiritual birth. I cannot stand being half born.

Affirmation: God wills total conversion, inward and outward - so do I.

For further reading: 1 John 5:18-19; Colossians 3:5-11

SILENT MEDITATION

1 John 5:18-19

We know that none of the God-begotten makes a practice of sin—fatal sin. The God-begotten are also the God-protected. The Evil One can't lay a hand on them. We know that we are held firm by God; it's only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the Evil One. And we know that the Son of God came so we could recognize and understand the truth of God—what a gift!—and we are living in the Truth itself, in God's Son, Jesus Christ. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life. Dear children, be on guard against all clever facsimiles.

Colossians 3:5-11

And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

I Love To Tell The Story - Andy Griffith

Disc 17 Track 2

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
(Refrain)