

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

Come to worship and follow Jesus the Christ.

We come seeking life eternal.

To find life, you must first die.

We come seeking to be comforted.

To be comforted, you give comfort to others.

We come seeking ivory palaces and golden streets.

Here you will find the cross. Take it and live.

We receive our cross to bear so that we may follow Jesus.

MUSIC AND MEDITATION

INVOCATION

O God whose ways are not our ways nor whose thoughts are our thoughts: Grant us the grace to accept your way to life by the way of the cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer List

Let us Pray:

We praise and bless you, O God, for you are the One who is life and who has given life to your creatures. You have given us the ability to reach beyond our own needs and to care for others. You have, indeed, made us in your own image. We thank you for all the ways in which you have offered yourself to us. You have not only given us creation for our needs and pleasures but you have given us your own Spirit. From that moment when you breathed into that first earth creature your own breath, we have been not only creatures of clay but children of the Most High God.

We have experienced your loving care for us in the sacrificial love of Jesus the Christ. You have shown us that there is no limit to your love. With faith in your caring presence we offer up to you those who are in our hearts. We remember the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the homeless, the lost and the friendless. As you offer yourself to them once again, help us to offer ourselves to their care.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus who rules forever from the throne of life, his cross. As he taught us, so now we pray: "Our Father ..."

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

GO OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD TAKING YOUR CROSS WITH YOU. AS YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO OTHERS ON IT, YOU WILL FIND YOUR TRUE LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Born From Below or From Above?

"What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit." - John 3:6

Human beings stand between the animal kingdom and the kingdom of God. We are pulled between the two, for we have a foot in each. We are akin to the animal with our physical desires, and we are akin to God in that we are made "a little lower than divine" (Psalm 8:5). We can "be born from above," or born from below; we can be controlled from above or controlled from below.

The animal kingdom stands for self against the rest; the kingdom of God stands for the divine Self for the sake of the rest. The animal kingdom is "red in tooth and claw" (Tennyson); the kingdom of God is red with the blood of the Son of God in self-sacrifice. The animal kingdom is the survival of the fittest in terms of the sharpest tooth and claw; the kingdom of God is the revival of the unfit in terms of redemption. The animal kingdom is life organized around the hunger motive; the kingdom of God is life organized by the love motive. The animal kingdom is a feud; the kingdom of God is a family. We can be born from below, or we can be born from above - life can be dominated by animal instincts or life can be dominated by God.

"The choice is always ours." We decide to be transformed from above or from below.

Would you rather be in a feud or in a family?

O God, I need transformation. I want to be born from above and become part of your family.

Affirmation: My life will be organized around the love motive with God's help.

For further reading: 1 John 5:1-3; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:1-3

SILENT MEDITATION

1 John 5:1-3

Every person who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, is God-begotten. If we love the One who conceives the child, we'll surely love the child who was conceived. The reality test on whether or not we love God's children is this: Do we love God? Do we keep his commands? The proof that we love God comes when we keep his commandments and they are not at all troublesome.

Colossians 1:21-22

You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

Colossians 3:1-3

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Never Alone - BarlowGirl

I waited for you today
But you didn't show
No no
I needed you today
But where did you go
You told me to call
Said you'd be there
And though I haven't seen you
Are you still there?

(Chorus:)

I cried out with no reply
And I can't feel you by my side
So I'll hold tight to what I know
You're here and I'm never alone

And though I cannot see you
And I can't explain why
Such a deep reassurance
You've placed in my life

We cannot separate
Cause you're part of me
And though you're invisible
I'll trust the unseen

(Chorus)