

Pearl River United  
Methodist Church Prayer  
Ministry

God is light;  
in him there is  
no darkness ...

1 John 1:5



## **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 into God's house and see what God is creating!

**We have come to worship God and to see God's new creation.**

God's creation has been marred and is flawed.

**We weep with God over the spoiled creation.**

God desires to reclaim it and make it new again.

**Praise be to God who redeems creation.**

The marred bit of creation is you and me.

**We know we are not what God intended us to be.**

Let us open our lives to the God who would renew us.

**Our lives are God's. May God make of us what seems right in the wisdom of the Most High.**

## **MUSIC AND MEDITATION**

### **INVOCATION**

**O God who created and is ever re-creating: Grant us the faith to trust that you will remake us into your very own image that we might truly be your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### Prayer List

Let us Pray:

**We worship and adore you, O God of all creation. The wonders of your wisdom and power surround us in all that we see. From the tiniest insect to the largest animal, we see your loving work. In all of creation we see you working to bring all to fulfillment. We thank you for the wondrous gifts you have bestowed upon us. We thank you for our world, our lives and our loved ones. We thank you for food and shelter. Most of all we thank you for Jesus Christ and his message of grace as you come to renew and reclaim us.**

**We look around and know that all creation is groaning to be redeemed. We know that you desire to heal and to renew it, and so we offer to you those who are on our hearts and minds this day. We think of those who are dying and those who grieve. We remember those who are sick, those who are hungry, those who are lonely. We think of those who do not know that you, or anyone, loves them. We know that you have called us to be part of your redemption of creation. As you redeem us, enable us to be part of your loving touch on this broken world. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together, saying, "Our Father ..."**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

**THE GOD WHO CREATED YOU HAS RENEWED THE DIVINE IMAGE WITHIN YOU. THEREFORE GO OUT AND SHARE GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE WITH ALL OF CREATION AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE BLESSED SO THAT YOU CAN BLESS OTHERS. AMEN.**

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL

### The Way Up Is The Way Down

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. - Romans 12:2a*

How can we get from the kingdom of man to the kingdom of God?...Here is foul, polluted mud in a swamp, and above it is a lotus flower. How can the slime be transformed into a lotus flower? It cannot lift itself; there is only one possible way...the higher kingdom comes down into the lower, and the lower kingdom surrenders itself to the roots of the plant and is lifted up and transformed and transfigured and blooms in the beauty of the flower. It is born from above...

There is only one way up and that is the way down - the kingdom of God, personalized in Jesus, comes down into our polluted world and says, "Let go your old life, be willing to surrender to my life, and I'll transform you into my image." We do "let go and let God," and we are transformed into a new image, infused with a new life. We are born from above.

### Where have you seen transforming power at work?

O God, I'm like that mud - I'm polluted, but I cannot purify myself. But I can consent. I do.

**Affirmation:** I'm consenting to God's redemptive power.

**For further reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:23-31; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

**SILENT MEDITATION**

## **1 Corinthians 1:23-31**

While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness." Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

## **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Audio Adrenaline - King  
Disc 15 Track 14

Today I've finally found  
A melody that fits  
A melody that fits  
Today I've finally found  
A song that I can sing  
A song that I can sing

You are my king  
You are my king  
I bow down before you  
And crown you the king of all kings  
Forever I'll sing  
Forever I'll sing  
I'll sing of your mercy  
And how I have been set free  
All set free

The rulers of the earth  
Will bow before your throne  
Will bow before your throne  
The nations you have made  
Will worship you alone  
Will worship you alone

You are my king  
You are my king  
I bow down before you  
And crown you the king of all kings  
Forever I'll sing  
Forever I'll sing  
I'll sing of your mercy  
And how by your love I'm set free  
I'm set free  
I'm set free

All set free  
All set free  
All set free

You are my king  
You are my king  
I bow down before you  
Cause you are the king of kings  
Forever I'll sing  
Forever I'll sing  
I'll sing of your mercy  
And how by your love I'm set free  
I'm set free  
I'm set free