

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THE LAND

If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

(2 Chronicles 7:14)



I sought for a man among them who would...stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land.

(Ezekiel 22:30)

Season of Prayer and Fasting

Sunday, February 21—Sunday, April 4, 2010

Intercessory Prayer Ministry
Prince George's Community Church
Worship Location:
Charles Herbert Flowers High School
10001 Ardwick Ardmore Rd.
Springdale, MD

Rev. Dr. Edward P. Harding, Jr.
Senior Pastor

If My people...

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people." (2 Corinthians 6:16)

Who are called by My name...

*Yet You, O LORD, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name: Do not leave us!
(Jeremiah 114:9)*

Will humble themselves...

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)

Pray...

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

Seek My face...

Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always. (1 Chronicles 16:11)

Turn from their wicked ways...

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him. (Isaiah 55:7)

Then will I hear from heaven...

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (1 John 5:14)

Forgive their sin...

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him. (Romans 4:7-8)

And heal their land.

Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal My people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against Me... Then this city will bring Me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it. (Jeremiah 33:6-9)

**MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR
AND
INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

It's time to start asking God for big things! God, who numbers the very hairs of our head, responds to all our prayers—small and large. Yet we too often fail to ask big things of our Big God. And what bigger need is there today than the healing of our land.

Trouble, anguish, strife, affliction, chaos, waywardness, insecurity, doubt, and fear are just some of the words that come to mind when we consider our communities, nation, and world. Yet this is not what God wants, for Jesus tells us to pray: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

God desires His people to stand in the gap on behalf of the land. No doubt, He continues to wonder at the lack of intercessors (Isaiah 59:16). God says that His intercessors (watchmen), should “never hold their peace day or night” and “give Him no rest” (Isaiah 62:6).

This Lenten Season let us besiege Heaven with our united prayers that seek God's forgiveness and favor on the people and circumstances in our communities, nation, and world—petitioning Him to heal the land. The need is critical; yet we know that our God is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

This *Prayer Guide* is intended to aid us in this work. Please lift up prayers on each day's identified topic and on other circumstances confronting our land. In addition lift up the corporate prayers that were contributed by fellow Church members. We also encourage you to fast during this period to help turn attention away from the flesh and toward God.

We are thankful for all who commit to entering this common battlefield of prayer on behalf of the land. By our actions let us resoundingly say: “Yes, God, You can find faithful intercessors here!”

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Edward P. Harding, Jr.
and
Intercessory Prayer Ministry

A PERSON OF PRAYER...

Knows that prayer is a sacred trust from God...

Understands his or her purpose in life as God's priest and intercessor in the world...

Has a relationship of trust with the heavenly Father and desires the world to experience the power of His presence and life...

Knows that the will of God will flow forth from heaven to earth only through his prayers and the prayers of all God's people.

(Dr. Myles Monroe)

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Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them. (Ezekiel 36:37)

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, February 21 – Saturday, February 27

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice. (Psalm 55:17)

Sunday

Help for the Poor and Needy, Shelter from the Storm

You have been a refuge for the poor, and a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. (Isaiah 25:4)

Monday

End of Violence

Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. (Isaiah 60:18)

Tuesday

Welfare of Children

Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street. (Lamentations 2:19) All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace. (Isaiah 54:13)

Wednesday

Destruction of Strongholds

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Thursday

Hatred of Evil

Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 97:10)

Friday

Renewed Strength

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak...those that hope in the LORD will renew their strength. (Isaiah 40:29) In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:12)

Saturday

Spiritual Revival

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. (Ephesians 5:16-17)

PRAYER

Lord, Help Us and Heal Your Land

Dear Merciful and Most Gracious Father,

Today, as I peered out of my snow-filled window, I caught a glimpse of a lonely bird, perhaps looking for food and shelter amidst falling ice precipitation, fierce winds, and frigid temperatures. But despite what might appear bleak to Your flying creature, I am reminded that You are Jehovah Jireh, our Great Provider, who knows and sees all and provides for our every need.

Lord, at first thought, it appears to so many that we have suffered so much in the past year and our future appears just as dismal. We have endured torrential rains, mudslides, swelling seas, earthquakes, tsunamis, swirling winds, snowstorms, great fires, and destruction. ***Lord, help us.***

We have seen our economy on the brink of total destruction. We have been witnesses to our own dwindling wealth contending with job losses, decreased hours of pay, diminishing savings, foreclosures, and bankruptcies. We have fallen prey to depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, emotional pain, isolation, separation, and divorce. For the first time in our lives, we have walked into food pantries and shelters not to give, but to receive, and became dependent on government assistance for much needed provisions. ***Lord, help us.***

Father, we remain ever vigilant and fearful of acts of terrorism within our own cities and abroad. Protecting our borders no longer is identified by the outline of the United States, but by our own homes, places of work, worship, and play. We continue to disappoint You by not loving our neighbors, both near and abroad. We are engaged in behaviors that we know are wrong, yet we continue indulgence in these selfish acts. We have total disregard for human life and kindness, falling ever so short of Your glory. ***Lord, help us.***

Lord, many persons are beginning to wonder whether we are in our last days. ***Lord, please help us.*** For only You can deliver this land. Let us remain hopeful, faithful, obedient, steadfast, and grateful in our plight. And, just as You made provisions for that lonely bird in his time of turmoil, uncertainty, hopelessness, homelessness, and helplessness, may we remember that You did not bring us this far to leave us.

Lord, hear our prayer and grant us, all of Your children, Your grace and mercy. Protect us oh Lord, and reveal Your great plan for us. Help us to shed the world's wardrobe and let us don Your armor and become soldiers on the battlefield to promote unity in Christ. ***Lord, help us and heal Your land.*** In Jesus' Precious Name, Amen.

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, February 28 – Saturday, March 6

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (Psalm 141:2)

Sunday

Help for the Weary and Burdened

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Monday

Health and Healing

Great crowds came to Him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at His feet: and He healed them. (Matthew 15:30)

Tuesday

Cessation of Wars and Spread of Peace

*He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)
My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure houses, in undisturbed places of rest. (Isaiah 32:18)*

Wednesday

Blessings on the Elderly

*They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. (Psalm 92:14)
Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. (Isaiah 46:4)*

Thursday

Salvation for Families, Friends, Community

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
(2 Peter 3:9)*

Friday

Faith and Trust That Please God

*However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? (Luke 18:8)
We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His Holy Name. (Psalm 33:20-21)*

Saturday

Increase of Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

PRAYERS

Dear Heavenly Father,

Use us, Lord. Use us, individually and as a faith community, to help heal our increasingly desolate, decadent, and despairing land. We ask that You prepare us to be coworkers with You. May we grow in grace and fellowship with You and so become fit instruments for Your purposes. Guide us, strengthen our faith, and give us wisdom, discernment, and courage. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower us. We ask that You cause us to be doers of Your Word who see the spiritual and physical needs of others and who labor to meet them. May we be bold ambassadors for Christ and ready channels of Your love and grace, no matter how small or how great the tasks You set before us. Your Word (John 14:13) says that we shall do “greater works.” Give us to understand that greater works can be accomplished through prayer in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior. So, God, give us hearts of fervent intercessors who bear a burden and responsibility to pray, unceasingly, on behalf of our communities, nation, and world. Use us, Lord. Consecrate us to You and to the progress of Your Kingdom on earth. In the matchless name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



Father,

Today we ask for the blessing of peace upon our nation, that our future generations never experience war in their lifetimes, but grow old in quietness and assurance. We understand that in order for that to happen, we must seek righteousness, not only personally but in the actions of our country itself. Give our leaders insight into the need for justice for all, wherever they may live or whatever they may believe. Teach us humility and responsibility so that Your world may be a safe home for every citizen of every country. We need Your peace to cover all of us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



Dearest God,

You know my faults and my frailties. You understand my need for perfection. When I should proceed, I procrastinate. When You sound the “charge” and command full steam ahead, I drop back and hesitate. When I should let things go, I hang on to them. When I should be at play, I find a reason to keep working. Rarely is my best (although good) acceptable to me. Stamp out the nagging need to overachieve. Quiet the raging demons of not good enough. Lower the unreachable and the unattainable to standards consistent with Your marvelous design of me. Remind and reinforce the “fearfully” and the “wonderfully” made of this model called me. Bless me this Lenten season to see me through Your eyes. Having been blessed to serve, aid me to serve You in the spirit of love and self-acceptance. Amen.

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, March 7 – Saturday, March 13

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer.
(1 Peter 3:12)*

Sunday

Help for the Oppressed

*The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble. (Psalm 9:9)
The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. (Psalm 103:6)*

Monday

The Rise of Justice

*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
(Amos 5:24) This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy
and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or
the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' (Zechariah 7:9-10)*

Tuesday

Renewed Minds

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—
His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)*

Wednesday

Obedience to God's Word

*Follow My decrees and be careful to obey My laws, and you will live safely in the land.
Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety.
(Leviticus 25:18-19)*

Thursday

Reconciliation and Forgiveness

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother
has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be
reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24) Bear with
one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.
(Colossians 3:13)*

Friday

End of Bitterness, Malice, and Greed

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of
malice. (Ephesians 4:31) Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against
all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his
possessions." (Luke 12:15)*

Saturday

More Workers With the Lord

*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to
send out workers into His harvest field. (Matthew 9:37-38)*

PRAYERS

Dear God,

As we yearn for Your kingdom to come on earth, remind us that Jesus said, “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21). Continue building Your kingdom in each of us, Lord. As Your Son cleansed the temple long ago, may we be cleansed of hate, avarice, jealousy, pride, selfishness, the lusts of the flesh, and all manner of sin. Forgive our sins. Warm our hearts. Purify our motives. Elevate our ideals. From our homes, our schools, our churches, our places of work, call us from our lesser selves to our better selves. Father, cultivate in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit so that Your kingdom of love and brotherhood will be advanced throughout the land. Amen.



Almighty God,

You said in Word if we would humble ourselves, pray, and seek Your face, and turn from our wicked ways, You would forgive our sin and heal our land. How desperately our land needs Your healing, Lord. We see wickedness spreading across it, and wonder how this happened. A solution seems so far away. The solution You’ve outlined in Your promise is not without personal cost. God, we pray that our national leaders will humble themselves, seek Your guidance, and turn from their wicked ways and do what is in the best interest of Your people. Make all of us a part of our hurting country’s healing. Make our lives testimonies for You today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, March 14 – Saturday, March 20

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. (Isaiah 65:24)

Sunday

Care for the Brokenhearted and Disconsolate

He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3) I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. (Jeremiah 31:13)

Monday

Doors of Opportunity Opened

These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open. (Revelation 3:7)

Tuesday

New Hearts

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

Wednesday

Spread of Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

Thursday

The Devil Resisted

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Friday

Good Stewardship of the Earth

You made him ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:6-8)

Saturday

Growth in Love

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

PRAYERS

Almighty God,

We love and adore You for who You are. You are our provider, healer, counselor and so much more. You give us grace and mercy each day. Even when we go astray, You are willing to forgive us. Father God, the world is in turmoil and men have tried to fix it and failed. We need a savior and redeemer. We pray to You to "right the wrongs." Thank You for what You have done and what You are going to do. We magnify Your name for You are worthy of our praise. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Our Father, Alpha and Omega, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Ruler of the World,

We give You all the praise and adoration.

We acknowledge Your Almighty Power.

We humbly ask forgiveness of our sins of omission and commission.

We thank You for our waking moments and our daily bread.

We thank You for Your protection and love.

We ask that You give us the wisdom to respect our fellow man, and care for his needs, to show conservation in the management of our natural resources, to trust in Your Word so that we can become better stewards of our home, land and the world.

We ask these things in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, March 21 – Saturday, March 27

*In everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God.
(Philippians 4:6)*

Sunday

Help for the Bowed Down

*The LORD is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made. The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. (Psalm 145:14) But You are a shield around me, O LORD; You bestow glory on me and lift up my head.
(Psalm 3:3)*

Monday

Divine Power

The God of Israel is He that gives strength and power to His people. (Psalm 68:35) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

Tuesday

Overflow of Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Wednesday

Spread of the Gospel

*And He said unto them, go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
(Mark 16:15)*

Thursday

Control of Errant Tongues

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
(Ephesians 4:29) Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. (Psalm 141:3)*

Friday

Leaders and Government Authorities

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:12)

Saturday

Deliverance and Restoration

*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.
(1 Peter 5:10-11) And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten.
(Joel 2:25)*

PRAYERS

Loving Father,

For the many blessings and tender mercies You have shown to Your people and our land, we thank You. We pray, Dear Lord, for Your continued blessings. We pray for the leaders of our nation. May our President be preserved in health and safety. May he be guided by You. May those who make our laws be inspired by motives of service and the betterment of all mankind. Give sound judgment and a true sense of justice to those in law enforcement. We pray to be delivered from war. May no enemies approach us from within or without. On behalf of our sisters and brothers everywhere, we ask that where persons have fallen, may they see Your forgiving presence. Where persons are suffering, may they find relief. Where there is struggle, may persons know Your help. Where persons are in danger, give them Your protection. Where souls grope in darkness, may Your light shine before them. Some are sorrowful; wipe the tears from their eyes and bind up their broken hearts. Some are sick; touch them with Your healing hand. Some are weary; let them rest under the shadow of Your wings. Dear God, we ask a special blessing on children everywhere. Tenderly watch over them. Keep them from all hurt, harm and danger. Protect them from the snares of the adversary and guide them into the way of everlasting life. These blessings we ask in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

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Gracious and Merciful God,

We, Thy people, humbly submit ourselves to Thy care. For we know that when we submit to Thy will our lives will be enriched. Enriched so that we may serve Thy purposes not only for PGCC but especially for the wider community. We implore Thee to forgive our missteps and our delinquent ways as we struggle to be and become stalwart soldiers. How inspiring Thou art. Please continue to draw us nearer as we wrestle with the vicissitudes of our lives and the lives of those whom we are led to serve in Thy name. We wish only to have our steps ordered in Thy Word so that we might be a beacon for others to follow. Strengthen our witness as a congregation as we strive to walk the upward way. Heal us, Dear Precious Lord. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER TOPICS

Sunday, March 28 – Saturday, March 3

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

Sunday

Helping One Another

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
(Galatians 6:2)*

Monday

Guidance, Darkness Turned into Light, Rough Places Made Smooth

*I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them. I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.
(Isaiah 42:16)*

Tuesday

God's Protection

My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. (John 17:15) The LORD watches over you... The LORD will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121:5-8)

Wednesday

Spread of Contentment

For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:11-13)

Thursday

Fear of the Lord

The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure. (Isaiah 33:5-6)

Friday

God's Felt Presence in the Storms of Life and Abounding Grace

*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

Saturday

The Lord's Favor

The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)

PRAYERS

Dear Lord,

We praise You.

Forgive us for not making time for reading Your word every day.

Forgive us for not giving more to You and our Church, and please give us the strength to be more so that we can give more.

Forgive us for indulging in immediate gratification under the guise of meeting our needs. Forgive us for promising to do for our less fortunate neighbors but falling short of the mark.

Forgive us for not calling our friends who are geographically far away but always near in our hearts.

Forgive us for buying on credit when we know we should exercise discipline and wait until we can save more.

Forgive us for rushing through life and missing precious moments that have been lost forever.

Forgive us for not encouraging others who are experiencing hard times.

Forgive us for denying our sins and for not being honest about our deeds—even to ourselves.

Know that we crave deliverance, salvation and the sweet peace that only Your love and grace can bring.

We cry out to You.

We beseech You.

We call out Your name.

Save us. Heal us.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Prayer for Haiti

Dear God of Compassion,

Please watch over the people of Haiti and weave out of these terrible happenings, wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been affected by tragedy with a sense of Your present love and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find You in the midst of their sorrow and be comforted. We ask now that you guide us as a church, to find ways of providing assistance that heals wounds, mends broken spirits and provides hope. Help us to remember that when one of Your children suffers we all suffer. This we pray, through Jesus Christ, who was dead, but lives and rules this world with You. Amen. [Presbyterian Church (USA): Adapted from Book of Common Worship]

EASTER SUNDAY

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

PRAYER FOCUS **THANKSGIVING FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST**

Standing at the foot of the cross, we see, falling from His hands, feet, and side, crimson streams of precious blood.

It is precious because of its redeeming and atoning efficacy.

By it, the sins of Christ's people are atoned for. They are redeemed from under the law. They are reconciled to God and made one with Him.

Christ's blood is also precious in its cleansing power.

It "cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Through Jesus' blood there is not a spot left on any believer; no wrinkle or any such thing remains. His precious blood, which makes us clean, removes the stains of abundant iniquity and permits us to stand "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

The precious blood of Christ is likewise precious in its preserving power.

Under the sprinkled blood, we are safe from the destroying angel. Remember it is God's seeing the blood that is the true reason for our being spared. Here is comfort for us when the eye of faith is dim, for God's eye is still the same.

The blood of Christ is precious also in its sanctifying influence.

The same blood that justifies by taking away sin, in its after-action, quickens the new nature and leads it onward to subdue sin and to carry out the commands of God. There is no motive for holiness so great as that which streams from the veins of Jesus.

And precious, unspeakably precious, is the blood, because it has overcoming power.

It is written, "They overcame...by the blood of the Lamb" (Revelations 12:11). How could they do otherwise? He who fights with the precious blood of Jesus fights with a weapon that cannot know defeat. The blood of Jesus! Sin dies at its presence, death ceases to be death, and heaven's gates are opened. The blood of Jesus! We will march on, conquering and to conquer,
as long as we trust its power!
(Charles Spurgeon)

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Closing Prayer and Benediction

God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. (Psalm 67:1-2) Amen.

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And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to Him be power and authority forever and ever.
(Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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For information about the Intercessory Prayer Ministry or to request intercessory prayer,
contact Deacon Flora Rice, Ministry Head at 202-829-2032 or flo20011@aol.com.
Requests for prayers can also be placed in the Prayer Request box in the reception area
each Sunday.

*My house will be called a house of prayer.
(Isaiah 56:7)*