

Faith United Methodist Church

February 21, 2021



[*Prayers are from [Purple Prayer-Worship Resources PDF Week 1](#) [gnjumc.org](#) unless otherwise indicated. Services in January have been pre-recorded and published on our YouTube channel and website Sundays at 9:30 a.m.]

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Jesus My Friend" Parts II & III by Don Freudenburg **Roger LaCross**

*Call to Worship

Friends, today, welcome to this house of prayer. Whether together physically or virtually, let us now join our hearts spiritually as we call upon the name of the Lord.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and they are safe.

So, let us seek in our time together and apart to become a more righteous people in communion with God.

Great God, we worship you today because you are worthy, and we desire that through our prayers and our praise, we might draw closer to you.

***Unison Prayer [Will appear on the screen]**

"Spirit of the Lord, give us ears to hear you and recognize your voice. Reveal yourself to us and show us your way. Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. We ask in the name of Jesus. Amen."

Children's Message

Joanne Milloy

First Reading

Romans 8: 26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Hymn/ Anthem

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1: 9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

"This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God."

Sermon

"Prayer is the breath of Christian life"

Pastor Wanda

Special Music

"Be Still My Soul" NEUMC Conference Resource Video

Offering Introduction: On this first Sunday of Lent, you are encouraged to commit yourselves to the practice of prayer, for yourself, for this church, our community and the world. Alongside your prayers you are invited to offer up your gifts, your talents and your resources so they can be used in a way that brings about God's will.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy God, with prayers of gratitude, we offer you our gifts. Receive them and use them according to your will, that your love and grace will be spread in our community and in the world. Help us always to listen to the voice of your Holy Spirit as we steward these gifts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

God, on this first Sunday in Lent, we commit to a season of looking at ourselves and working on ourselves so that we can grow in our relationship with you. We thank you that you invite us into prayer, an open and honest conversation with you. We admit that we do not always enter this conversation wholeheartedly. We carry burdens of guilt and shame that we would rather you not see. But you have promised us your Holy Spirit as a help in our weakness. So, today, with the Spirit's help, we confess to you our sins. We confess that we are broken, and we need you. We confess that in neglecting to love you with our whole hearts, we are also failing to fully love ourselves and those around us. Forgive us for our sins and help us to grow in faith and love through this Lenten season. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Charge/Benediction

Postlude "Jesus My Friend" Part I by Don Freudenburg Roger LaCross

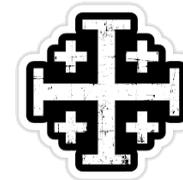
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Liturgist: Mike Adelman

Ushers: N/A

Organist: Roger LaCross

Minister: Rev. Wanda Santos Perez



Learning to pray: The Jesus Prayer

The Jesus Prayer is a short sentence prayer—Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner—that is meant to be said in repetition. It is an ancient prayer that dates to at least the sixth century AD, and brief prayers like it that can be said at any point throughout the day have been used for even longer. They act as a sort of tether that connects our everyday life to God. It is sometimes easy to think of prayer as something very programmatic, and requiring serious thought and effort, but these 'arrow' prayers (a prayer that can be prayed at any point without hesitation or thinking, 'arrow' referring to the quickness with which an arrow can be released) remind us that we can offer our whole lives to God in prayer no matter our circumstances and no matter what we happen to be doing or where we happen to be.

The Jesus Prayer is a particularly important prayer for the Church, as it is both a summary statement of our faith and a prayer that moves beyond a statement of beliefs to a place of surrender—an acknowledgment of both who Jesus Christ is and who we are before him. In the prayer, Jesus is both the object of our desire and the foundation upon which our entire life depends.

Each word of the first half of the prayer is a declaration of who Jesus is.

LORD. Here is an acknowledgment that Christ is creator and ruler of all.

JESUS. Here we make the astonishing Christian claim that this Lord of all comes to us in the historic person of Jesus Christ. The God of the universe has made his home with us—Jesus is 'Emmanuel', God-With-Us.

CHRIST. This word claims that this person who is both God above and a human being like us is the 'Messiah', the long-expected Savior that we read about in the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible.

SON OF GOD. This is a further statement that Jesus Christ is the Savior God's people had been waiting for and of his divinity. This Jesus is the Lord of all, the Savior of the world, and God the Son who brings us into a loving relationship with the Father.

But again, this prayer is much more than a statement of our faith. The second half of the prayer turns us towards the loving relationship God offers us:

HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER. This is first an acknowledgment of God's great love for us in Jesus Christ, of the mercy available to us through him. Second it involves an acknowledgment of who we are— people who fall short of God's perfect love, sinners, in need of mercy. The first part of the prayer, an unflinching declaration of faith in Jesus Christ, the second, a surrender to the rich and complex relationship of God to creation in Jesus Christ. And the whole of the prayer is designed to move us towards that loving God of mercy, to move us beyond the hustle and bustle of our lives, beyond the distractions, and into the loving embrace of God's mercy. While this prayer can teach us a lot about who God is and who we are, it is not primarily a prayer of the mind, meant to engage us in thoughts about God, it is primarily a prayer of the heart, designed to move us toward God.

The Jesus Prayer is used in various ways:

1. It can still us and bring us before God in a period of silence. The Jesus Prayer can help to center our day on Christ by a short period (maybe 10 minutes or so) of sitting in silence and saying the prayer repetitively. This can be done in consonance with our breathing. As we breathe in we pray, 'Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,' and as we breathe out, 'have mercy on me, a sinner'.
2. This prayer can be said as an 'arrow' prayer throughout the day. As we walk along the street or go about our work, we can acknowledge God's presence with us and set our hearts on God through praying the Jesus Prayer.
3. Either during an intentional period of silence or steadily throughout the day, a prayer rope or prayer beads can be used as a way of focusing our entire selves, mind and body, on Christ. Passing beads through our fingers as we pray the Jesus Prayer can help us to engage our whole selves with God and to remain focused and undistracted



Prayer List

Please Hold These Names in Prayer This Week



Marie Rainey	Joe Trevathan	David Henry
Johnathan Riopelli	Peter & Joanne Milloy	Roger LaCross
Dave & Wendy Mason	Neil Marshall	Dana Thompson
Jennifer Bedat	Roberta Green	Ann Lavern
Christine Peloquin	Pam Barrett	Mary Buss
Frederick Pennington	Ed Jaszek	Laura Dowd
Ryan & Maloah McCarron	Karen Harrington	Nancy Woods
Stephen DeSilva	Connie Harris	Dottie Squires

All those affected by disasters, both natural and man-made, throughout our world, the hungry and the homeless, those in pain, our leaders in government, that they will protect the least of these, and peace throughout the world.

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: **France, Germany, Monaco.**



Attention Women of the Church

Sondra is going to be getting in contact with some of the women of the church. We have put on a Ham and Bean supper before. This time Sondra would like to put one on in celebration of Easter on Psalm Sunday for the church family. If we still can't eat in person then we could do takeout dinners. There will be a drive up for people who can make it and delivery for those that can't.



Picture courtesy of Jack Valley

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Pastor's office hours by appointment www.chicopeeumc.org



Call the office, email or post your prayer request on our website.

We are always here to pray for you!