



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JULY 22nd, 7PM

Join us on our [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#) and use this Guide to pray with us from wherever you are.

• INTRO

Welcome to another time of prayer! Let's be encouraged to set aside this time to the Lord, to let these next 30 minutes be a holy space in which we offer our hearts to God completely and pray together in solidarity. In this extended season of crisis, virtually every area of society has been challenged—from the largest structures of influence to the smallest units of families. As this unprecedented summer speeds toward its conclusion, many are anxiously preparing for what will happen to schools. Families all over our community and nation are wondering what life will look like for their children and their homes. Many families have already had to navigate the challenges of switching for a time to a lifestyle of home or cyber schooling. This is a good time for us to pray for families and students. To that end, we have a very special reflection on the life of a very special person. Today's prayer is guided with a devotion by Poppy Williams of 24/7 Prayer (July 22nd, 2020, "Susanna Wesley: Hero of Prayer and Learning," Lectio 365), as we reflect on the powerful life of Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley (founders of the Methodist Movement). Today we are thanking God for the extraordinary example of this hero of prayer and learning, who died this day in 1742, whose parenting indirectly, yet profoundly influenced the world. As we pray for our families and those we know, we will be reminded through Susanna's witness of the power of every life to influence others. Let's pray.

• PAUSE

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Holy Spirit, my teacher, as I dive into the Bible would You awaken my heart, expand my mind and shape my identity today.

Pause and pray

• REJOICE

I rejoice in God's majesty and power today, joining in the ancient praise of all God's people in the words of Psalm 77... ***"O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you? You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations..."*** (v. 13-14)

Let's sing a famous hymn now by Susanna's son, Charles Wesley:

- **SONG**

“O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” **Click Here** - <https://youtu.be/1v6W5H-HC-U>

VERSE 1 & 2

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace
My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name

CHORUS

So come on and sing out
Let our anthem grow loud
There is one great love
There is one great love, Jesus (Jesus)

VERSE 3 & 4

Jesus the name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears
'Tis life and health and peace

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin
He sets the pris'ner free
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me

VERSE 5 & 6

He speaks and list'ning to His voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe
Glory to God and praise
And love be ever ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above
The church in earth and heav'n

BRIDGE

There are so few words
That never grow old
There are so few words
That never grow old
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

CCLI License # 870332 Carl Gotthelf Glaser | Charles Wesley | David Crowder | Jack Parker © 2007 Inot Music

- **REFLECT**

Susanna Wesley was not an author, she was not a preacher and she never planted a church, and yet, her legacy lives on, long after her death.

Growing up as a woman in the late 1600s, Susanna was not allowed to attend college, so her father decided to take on the role of teacher, tutoring her in a number of subjects, including foreign languages. Years later she would pass on her knowledge to her 3 sons and 7 daughters as she home schooled each of them. In a letter to her husband, Susanna wrote: ‘I look upon every soul under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust.’ (*John Whitehead, The Life of Rev. John Wesley: Some Time Fellow of Lincoln College [Oxford Volume 1] p.46-47*) Susanna was committed to nurturing her children and while many of them went on to do great things, two would go on to impact church history: John and Charles Wesley. The first founded the Methodist Church, and the latter was a leader and prolific hymn writer (he authored over 6,000 hymns, many of which are still sung today—titles like “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” “And Can it Be,” and the song we just sang).

- **ASK**

Susanna Wesley's life reminds me how great an influence I can have on others. What if I looked at my family, my friends and the people around me as Susanna Wesley did? Are there 'souls' that God has placed in my charge? What have I learned that I can pass to them?

Lord, how can I share my learning and encourage Your calling in others today?

Pause and pray

As I think of the Christian parents I know, raising their children and teaching them to follow Jesus, I name three of them now and I ask You, Lord, to inspire and equip them to raise life-long disciples of Jesus.

Pause and pray

- **YIELD**

In his book, *Streams of Living Water*, Richard Foster records one of Susanna Wesley's prayers:

'Help me, Lord to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church...nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in thy presence.'
(Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water*, Chapter 7, pg. 1)

Let's repeat that prayer again together:

Help me, Lord to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church...nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in thy presence.

Susanna expected to encounter God in everything that she was doing. Sometimes she would sit in her kitchen and pull her apron over her head to pray. Her children knew what the apron meant, and only interrupted her in an emergency. Even in the midst of a busy household, while raising ten children, Susanna made time to pray. What's my equivalent of Susanna Wesley's apron? How can I create a personal space for encounter with God today?

Pause and pray

Lord, I confess that I let the busyness of my life distract me from Your presence. Forgive me for the times that I haven't made communicating with You a priority. Today, help me to be aware of Your presence everywhere. Today, I hold onto Your promise in scripture that even before I call, You will answer, and when I am speaking to You, You hear. (Isaiah 65:24)

- **SONG**

“Build My Life” Click Here - https://youtu.be/QZW4_8_zCBE

VERSE 1

Worthy of every song we could ever
sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever
bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever
breathe
We live for You

VERSE 2

Jesus the name above every other
name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever
breathe
We live for You, we live for You

CHORUS

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show
me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those
around me

BRIDGE

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

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- **Closing Prayer**

***Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.
Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.***