



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 7PM

Join us outside in the pavilion or online on [Facebook](#) (live) and [YouTube](#) (uploaded after) and use this Guide to pray with us. **\*Special Note: Next week, Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be NO PRAYER SERVICE, we are taking the night off—we will be back the following week on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>!**

### • INTRO

Welcome to another Prayer Service together and an exciting new season where we are focusing on praying through the Psalms together. This year with the start of 2020, we as a church launched into a new vision: we believe God is calling us to focus on pursuing the vision of *Thriving in Christ*. God is calling us to focus on understanding what “thriving in Christ” looks like so that as individual believers, as families, and as an entire congregation we begin to embody the truth of John 15:5 & 8, where Jesus said, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* We are devoted not so much to “growing a church” (bigger attendance, bigger buildings, bigger budgets—although all those things can be wonderful!), but growing bigger people who grow the Kingdom of God—people becoming more and more like Jesus who make the world around them look more and more like Heaven. If we do this, we’ll be well on our way to fulfilling our part in God’s Mission: making Disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

What does this have to do with a Wednesday night Prayer Service? The way to live a life that is “thriving in Christ,” is by immersing ourselves in the Word of God, in the Presence of God, and in the People of God. One of the keys to thriving in Christ, then, is learning to live *a life of prayer*. This is why we have committed to pray together every Wednesday (in addition to other times and ways). If we want to learn how to live a life of prayer, the best thing we could do is go to the Psalms. The Psalms are the “Prayer Book” of the Bible—they are the Prayer Book of Jesus himself! Jesus was so immersed in these ancient, inspired prayers of God’s people that while hanging on the cross, he prayed from Psalm 22 with his final breaths before his death and resurrection. The Psalms are the most quoted Old Testament Scriptures by the New Testament—they are full of prophecies of the Messiah and so many treasures of what life with God looks like. They teach us how to be honest and bold in prayer. They help us discover the heart of God. They are full of challenges that will stretch us, too. If we commit to praying the Psalms together, we will literally be immersing ourselves in God’s Word, in God’s Presence, and in God’s People! What could be better for such a time as this? I hope you’re excited for this journey, let’s get started with Psalm 1.

- **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.” (Lectio365)

*Pause and pray*

Tonight we begin our journey through the Psalms by reflecting, meditating, and praying through **Psalm 1**. Meditate on words or phrases that jump out as we read together:

***“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.”***

Let’s bless the Lord together as we sing:

- **SONGS**

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/AcnG86xMT0Q>

**CHORUS**

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

**VERSE 1**

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies  
before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

**VERSE 2**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

**VERSE 3**

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

CCLI Song # 6016351 Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs

**Singing Psalm 1** *(to the tune of “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)*

**VERSES 1 & 2:**

Bless-ed is the one who does not walk within the wicked way,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit where the scoffers stay.  
But he takes delight in foll’wing what the LORD’s law says is right,  
On that law he meditates both in the day and in the night.

### 3 & 4:

He will be just like a tree that's planted by the streams that flow;  
Yielding fruit within its season, leaves that ever healthy grow.  
In all things he does, he prospers; but the wicked are not so—  
They are like the useless chaff that's cast away by winds that blow.

### 5 & 6:

Thus, the wicked will not stand when comes the final judgment day;  
Nor will sinners join the gath'ring of the righteous in the Way.  
For the LORD knows well and watches o'er the way the righteous own;  
But the way the wicked choose will perish and be overthrown.

Julie and Timothy Tennent, © 2017 Franklin, TN: Seedbed Publishing

#### • **Psalm 1:1-3**

*“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”*

The word “Blessed is the one” can also be translated, “Happy are those,” or “Oh the joys of those...” This is a picture of the *thriving*, flourishing life—of human life as it was meant to be lived with God. The whole book of Psalms begins by mapping out the contrast between that *thriving* life and the life that withers and crumbles. *Pause and pray: take a moment to close your eyes and envision those streams of water, those trees planted on the banks, bearing fruit in and out of season. Invite God to speak. What does my life look like right now in this scenario?*

The “key ingredient” of this thriving life is delighting in the Word of God, meditating on it day and night, if you will, *immersing yourself in God's Word and God's presence. How does this relate to my life right now? How is my family and my Church doing with this? Pause and pray.*

#### • **Psalm 1:4-5**

*“Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”*

What a stark contrast in imagery here between those who live life with God and those who do not. The Bible can be painfully honest and blunt about the reality of evil in this world—and in our hearts. There is a *reason* Jesus had to come and die for our rescue. How interesting that Jesus, the Word become flesh, came to us and was notorious for fellowshiping with known sinners, with many considered “wicked.” He came to seek and save the lost, to pursue the lost sheep and restore them. *What does the internal condition of my soul feel more like right now:*

*A tree, firmly rooted in the source of life, or chaff, scattered and blown by the wind? Why might this be the case? Ask God to illuminate your heart and your life, to show you what He wants you to know. Pause and pray.*

*What is my heart towards the lost? Do I turn a verse like this into a weapon for judgement? Do I avoid the painful truth that many are unknowingly on the wide way of destruction? Or do I see this as a motivation for all the more prayer and love for the sake of the world God so loves (John 3:16)? Pause and pray.*

- **Psalm 1:6**

*“For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.”*

Psalm 1 begins with the word, “blessed,” and ends with the word, “destruction.” It makes clear what the rest of Scripture also implies: there are, in the end, two Ways for us to go. The way of life, and the way of death. Jesus said the way that leads to Life is narrow and few find it, but the path leading to destruction is wide and easy, many take it. Which way am I on? Which way do I want to be in? Is it time to renew my walk with God, or to celebrate where He has brought me so far? *Pause and pray.*

Do I think about the lives of the people around me? Am I concerned about their salvation? Not in a judgmental or self-righteous way, but with the loving heart of God. *Pause and pray for those who have not yet found or chosen the Narrow Way of Life—Life with God, the way of Jesus.*

- **SONG**

“Thrive” **Click Here** - [https://youtu.be/qQ71RWJhS\\_M](https://youtu.be/qQ71RWJhS_M)

**VERSE 1**

Here in this worn and weary land  
Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water  
We never will run dry

Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide  
We know we were made for so much more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

**PRE-CHORUS**

So living water flowing through  
God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls  
With one desire

**VERSE 2**

Into Your Word we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out  
To show them who You are

**CHORUS**

Just to know You and to make You known  
We lift Your name on high

**BRIDGE**

Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable, anything is possible

- **Closing**

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## **CHURCH PRAYER LIST**

**Our Church Family:** Saxon Family, Bailey Seybert, David Ackley, Sis Beyer, Bette Grove, David Barron, Emma Jean Jordan, Roger Heintzelman

**Extended Family:** Tim and Sasha Parker as they prepare this evening to welcome their son into the world (Emily Layser's brother and sister-in-law, and the Laysers' soon-to-be nephew), Joe Oberdorf, Baby Rowen, Robert Doran, Matthew Bowersox Family, Janet Fitch, Dana, Family of Paul Maher, Matthew & Carol Kitchen, Shelly Snyder, Bernie Wolf, Dennis & Jennifer Derr, Kathy Dalton, Family of Sue Reibsome, Fernando, Lynn, Family of Lori Rossi, Dean Heintzelman, Mark Chaillet, Bertha & her mom, Bruce & Pat Weir

**LAMbs:** Betty Barnhart, Christine Bialecki, Miriam Cropf, Lucille Fasold, Randy Swartz, Darlene Swope, Jason Vognetz

**Global Concerns:** The country of Lebanon in the aftermath of the explosion in Beirut, all factors of the ongoing pandemic, racial justice and reconciliation, pressures on families and children returning to school and school districts