

PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 7PM

Join us outside in the pavilion or on <u>Facebook</u> and use this Guide to pray with us.

• INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! It's been an interesting week, hasn't it? (Maybe that's an understatement.) And who knows how much more "interesting" it's going to get. Again and again, we are reminding ourselves that in these tumultuous times, we need to turn our attention to the Lord and fix our eyes on Jesus. Let's stop refreshing our news feeds for a moment and listen for what God wants to say. We need to remember now as much as ever that we are exiles in this land; our true home awaits us. We are citizens *first* of God's Kingdom and second of the nations in which we reside. Whoever wins the election, whatever happens in the months to come, there is a King above all kings. Let's lift our hearts and voices to the *true* King and trust Him with our world.

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.*

As we read **Psalm 12** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. ² Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. ³ May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue—⁴ those who say, 'By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us who is lord over us?' ⁵ 'Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,' says the LORD. 'I will protect them from those who malign them.' ⁶ And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times. ⁷ You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked, ⁸ who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race."

<u>SONGS</u>

"Crown Him (Majesty)" Click Here - https://youtu.be/hqy-gob13kA

VERSE 1

Crown Him with many crowns The Lamb upon His throne Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own Awake my soul and sing Of Him who died for me And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity

VERSE 2

Crown Him the Lord of life Who triumphed o'er the grave And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die

CHORUS

Majesty Lord of all Let ev'ry throne before Him fall The King of kings O come adore Our God who reigns forevermore

BRIDGE

All hail Redeemer hail For He has died for me His praise and glory shall not fail Throughout eternity

VERSE 3

Crown Him the Lord of peace Whose power a sceptre sways From pole to pole That wars may cease And all be prayer and praise His reign shall know no end And round His pierc-ed feet Fair flow'rs of paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet

CCLI Song # 6463818 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Job Elvey | Godfrey Thring | Matt Maher | Matthew Bridges © 2013 Alletrop Music

• PSALM 12:1-4

^{"1} Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. ² Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. ³ May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue—⁴ those who say, 'By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us who is lord over us?"

"Help, Lord." Sometimes, that's all we can pray: it's all we have time to pray in the moment of crisis, or we simply can find no other words. *Help, Lord.* When it seems that our world is spinning out of control, when it feels like no one is good-hearted, when it appears that every source of information is tainted, when it seems that the places of power are inhabited too often by those who "harbor deception in their hearts," who think they answer to no one but themselves, *help, Lord.* Do we care about truth, honesty, and integrity as much as the Psalmist does? Are we as passionate about justice and righteousness? How might the Word of God instruct us here?

Help, Lord. Is anything troubling your heart right now? How would you finish that prayer, "Help, Lord..." today? *Pause and pray.*

• PSALM 12:5-8

"⁵ 'Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,' says the LORD. 'I will protect them from those who malign them.' ⁶ And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.
⁷ You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked, ⁸ who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race."

The Lord "rises up" to defend the poor and the needy. Do we stop to listen to the "groans" of the afflicted and downcast the way the Lord does? Do we look to help them in our world, or press on with our own agendas? Jesus said in Matthew 25 that what we do for the "least of these" we do for Him. No matter what the outcomes of this election are, the needy and afflicted will need our love. If this is the Lord's concern, will we make it our own, too?

What a contrast is this section about God's words from the previous section about the arrogant and deceitful speech of the wicked. *"…the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times."* Meditate on that for a moment: God's words are pure, God's truth is flawless, like the finest gold.

In a world in which "what is vile in honored by the human race," let's intentionally focus now on the God who is unchanging, who is righteous, who loves justice, whose words are pure and true. *He* is the one with ultimate authority: He is the King of kings. Let's take refuge, find solace, and resolve to live by this truth. *Pause and pray.*

• <u>SONG</u>

"King of Kings" Click Here - https://youtu.be/Of5lcFWiEpg

VERSE 1

In the darkness we were waiting Without hope without light Till from Heaven You came running There was mercy in Your eyes To fulfil the law and prophets To a virgin came the Word From a throne of endless glory To a cradle in the dirt

CHORUS

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit three in one God of Glory, Majesty Praise forever to the King of Kings

VERSE 2

To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake You died

VERSE 3

And the morning that You rose All of heaven held its breath Till that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe For the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored

VERSE 4

And the Church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame Now this Gospel truth of old Shall not kneel shall not faint By His blood and in His Name In His freedom I am free For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me

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<u>Closing</u>

"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." (Lectio365)