



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 7PM

Join us outside in the pavilion or on [Facebook](#) and use this Guide to pray with us.

### • INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! What an amazing treasure we have in the Psalms: these ancient prayers and songs of God's people. It's powerful to read through the whole book of Psalms, not just the ones we like most, because they give us the full breadth and depth of a life of prayer. They remind us of God's faithfulness through the wild journey of life and give us a model of how to walk that Ancient Path of faith, that Narrow Way of Life. As we join our hearts and minds with these prayers, we join our lives with the Faith and the God they point to. Tonight's prayer is a raw and vulnerable cry of anguish that ends with the assurance of God's unfailing love. Let it guide you, minister to you, and deepen your connection with God tonight, whatever you or your loved ones are going through. 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." (Lectio365) *Pause and pray.*

As we read **Psalm 13** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***"<sup>1</sup> How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, <sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,' and my foes will rejoice when I fall. <sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. <sup>6</sup> I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me."***

### • SONGS

#### **"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (Refrain)**

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
O for grace to trust him more

## **“How Long Oh Lord (Psalm 13)” by Peter Crockett © 2018**

Click Here – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaMPbjkprQ0>

### **VERSE 1**

How long O Lord will you forget me,  
How long will you look the other way  
(Repeat)

### **REFRAIN**

But I will trust in your unfailing Love, my  
heart rejoices in your salvation  
And I will sing to the Lord, for he's been  
good to me.

### **VERSE 2**

How long will anxious thoughts prevail,  
My heart has sorrow day by day (Repeat)

### **VERSE 3**

Consider me and answer God,  
Light up my eyes or I will sleep like death  
(Repeat)

### **ENDING**

When I listen for your voice, it's singing  
over me  
Such a peaceful song I hear, it stills the  
roughest sea

Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,  
thunder claps fill the air,  
Yet your voice speaks over the waves,  
“Why are you so afraid?” (Repeat)

### **• PSALM 13:1-4**

***“<sup>1</sup> How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, <sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes will rejoice when I fall.”***

“How long?” It’s the question of the weary and afflicted. *How much longer? How long will this virus last? How long will this depression last? How long will this conflict last? How long will this election last? How long, Lord?* This prayer is a bold example of vulnerability. It gives us permission to pray when we are angry, hurting, and doubting, without holding back.

It’s remarkable to think that this prayer is attributed to David. *King David*. The guy has some *pretty strong* spiritual credentials! Anointed as the greatest king of Israel, a man after God’s own heart, slayer of the giant, chosen to bear the line of the Messiah, credited with half of the Psalms, and given the largest amount of narrative in the Old Testament—more than any other character. *That guy!* Can you imagine someone like *that* ever praying a prayer like *this*? “*Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? Answer me or I will die!*” *Is that allowed?* The Bible says, yes.

Life in this fallen, Out-of-Eden, not-yet-Heaven World can bring us at times through such depths of pain and darkness that we feel abandoned by God. Have you ever felt this way? Are you feeling this now? Do you know someone who feels this? Read the list of complaints in the passage above: feeling forgotten by God, wrestling with anxiety

and sorrow, oppressed by enemies. Do any of these apply to you right now? Do any of these apply to someone you know? *Pause and pray.*

- **PSALM 13:5-6**

***“<sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. <sup>6</sup> I will sing the LORD’s praise, for he has been good to me.”***

What a shift! If you’ve been reading the Psalms with us so far, you’ll see that it’s not too uncommon: in the Psalms that focus on darker feelings, discouragements, and threats, often there is some kind of gradual or sudden shift from anguish to trust. What happened in this shift? From feeling forgotten by God, airing the grievances and crying out for help, to this expression of faith. This is the key: *but I trust...in what?...in your unfailing love.*

The Psalmist has been through battles before. The Psalmist has seen God’s faithfulness and deliverance before. Above all, the Psalmist *knows*—not just at an intellectual level, but as a matter of direct experience—*knows the unfailing love of God.* “But I will trust in your unfailing love.” Out of this decision to trust, amidst all that is going wrong, comes the commitment to praise: *“My heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.”* Can you, even in deep darkness, still hang on to the unfailing love of God? Is it so deep in your heart that even as you question God and wrestle with life’s battles, you know it’s there? As the great Corrie Ten Boom famously said, “There is no pit so deep that the love of God is not deeper still.”

Prayerfully read and meditate on the passage above (verses 5-6) several more times. Listen to the word or phrase that stands out to you, which perhaps the Spirit is laying on your heart. Focus on that and let it guide your prayer and praise. *Pause and pray.*

- **SONG**

**“One Thing Remains” Click Here - [https://youtu.be/6\\_KXsMCJgBQ](https://youtu.be/6_KXsMCJgBQ)**

**VERSE 1**

Higher than the mountains that I face  
Stronger than the power of the grave  
Constant in the trial and the change  
One thing remains  
One thing remains

**CHORUS**

Your love never fails  
It never gives up  
Never runs out on me  
Your love

**VERSE 2**

On and on and on and on it goes  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul  
And I never ever have to be afraid  
One thing remains  
One thing remains

**BRIDGE**

In death in life I'm confident and  
Covered by the power of Your great love  
My debt is paid there's nothing that  
Can separate my heart from your great love

- **Closing**

*“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)