



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

- **INTRO**

Welcome to Prayer Service! Tonight we're reflecting on Psalm 20, a unique prayer: Psalm 20 seems to be a kind of liturgy where the people are gathered together to pray for their king's success and victory in the Lord. It might even evoke the image of an army gathered with the king before battle, holding up their banners, praying for God's blessing and deliverance from their enemies. As we reflect and pray through this Scripture, we'll think of it through multiple lenses of praying for our leaders, praying for our true King's ultimate victory and return, and praying for our own lives. We'll find it to be an encouraging and uplifting part of the Psalms; 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 the second half **Psalm 20** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. ² May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. ³ May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. ⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. ⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests. ⁶ Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. ⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. ⁹ LORD, give victory to the king! Answer us when we call!"

- **SONGS**

"Knowing You" Click Here - <https://youtu.be/7qZIPOe3bFw>

VERSE 1

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

CHORUS

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord

VERSE 2

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

VERSE 3

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

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• **PSALM 20:**

“¹ May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. ² May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. ³ May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. ⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. ⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.”

James L. Mays writes about this Psalm, *“The Practice of praying for rulers, presidents, and governors is an ancient and enduring tradition. These prayers express the deep awareness of a people that their destiny is bound up with the success of the one who has been invested with power for the sake of the whole. Psalm 20 is such a prayer.”* (Interpretation, © 1994 John Knox Press) This reminds us of Paul’s instruction in the New Testament, *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”* (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

We pray for our leaders, regardless of our political affiliations, as an act of faith and obedience, because we realize that in praying for a leader, we’re praying for the good of our community, of our society, of ourselves. In the wake of a very tense election and inauguration season, this can be quite an act of faith! Do we have the faith to pray for those we *didn’t* vote for as well as those we did vote for? Do we trust that God is able to work in and through our leaders in spite of their imperfections and flaws? This Psalm reminds us that, when it comes to earthly leaders, even the greatest leaders are *not* what we put our hope and trust in—rather, we put our hope and trust in God’s saving power. Let’s lift up leaders in prayer right now, at all levels, whatever names and roles come to mind. *Pause and Pray.*

• **PSALM 20:**

“⁶ Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. ⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. ⁹ LORD, give victory to the king! Answer us when we call!"

As we have often noted already, we can read the Psalms through multiple lenses: on the one hand, we can look at the original context to allow these meanings to guide our reflections and prayers; on the other hand, we can look through the bigger lens of Jesus, to whom all of Scripture points. The kings of Israel were only forerunners and foreshadows of the greater King and the greater Kingdom—as greater as the heavens are above the earth. Jesus is *our* true King, our Savior, the Messiah—God’s Anointed. His victory is our deliverance, His death is our life. That victory has already been achieved through the finished work of the Cross—Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. And yet, we still wait for the final consummation of that victory, for the return of the King, when all evil will finally be destroyed, all things made new, and all His people reign with Him forever.

We can pray these words as an act of worship and trust in our King Jesus. We can reaffirm our total allegiance to Him, above all. With joy we can “lift up our banners in the name of our God” (v. 5) and declare, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God...we rise up and stand firm.” Let’s pray that the reign of Christ would be extended throughout this world “as it is in heaven,” for the preparation of His return, and reaffirm our allegiance to Him. *Pause and pray.*

• **SONG**

“Raise a Hallelujah” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/FRo7kFI7hBw>

VERSE 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

CHORUS

I’m gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder you’re gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive

VERSE 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

BRIDGE

Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (in the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (my weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)

- **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)