



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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! Do we long for prayer? Do we yearn for God? Prayer is about more than just talking about God, more than just talking to God, more than just reading off our lists and going through our routines. It's about being *with* God. Communing with God. Enjoying God. Experiencing his presence. Listening. Of course, he wants to hear from us, he wants us to bring our needs and pour out our hearts. But the best part about prayer is when we've said what we need to say, and we get to just be still and know. We need to take time to remember *who God is*. We need to reframe our perspective in this weary world. If we let it, God's word can realign our hearts and reset our focus on what is most true. The Psalms will train us in prayer and worship if we come with patience and humility. Tonight, let Psalm 33 remind you of God's greatness and faithfulness. Let it stir your heart to praise him. Let it lead you into a place where you can simply rest and revel in his presence. God is here. Let's bring our hearts, our whole lives, and spend time with him. 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." (Pete Greig, Lectio365)

"Jesus, I give everything and everyone to you. I give everything and everyone to you, God."  
(John Eldredge, Daily Pause)

*Pause and pray.*

As we read **Psalm 33** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***"1 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. 4 For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. 5 The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. 13 From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; 14 from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— 15 he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. 16 No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. 18 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. 21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. 22 May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you."***

- **SONG**

**“Let the Light In”**

**VERSE 1**

It's time for the sleeper to wake  
It's time for the old winds to change  
(Oh) I hear the Spirit say it's time

Let the King of glory in  
Come ride in on Your people's praise  
Let the King of glory in  
Let the King of glory in

**VERSE 2**

It's time for the dead man to rise  
It's time for the Great Light to shine  
(Oh) I hear the Spirit say it's time

**BRIDGE**

Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Let the light in

**CHORUS**

Fling wide you heavenly gates  
Let the King of glory in

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- **PSALM 33:1-5**

***“<sup>1</sup> Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. <sup>5</sup> The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”***

Listen to all the descriptive action verbs in these opening words: *“Sing joyfully to the Lord...praise him...praise the Lord...make music to him...sing a new song...play skillfully...shout for joy!”* The invitation is not just for ancient Israel, but for all of us. He is abundantly worthy of praise, not just for what he has done for us, but for who he is: *“For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”* When we discover who really God is, when we encounter his unfailing love, we don't need to summon the motivation to praise him—we can't help but respond with worship! Take time to bring to mind specific things you want to praise God for tonight: things God has done in your life, as well as aspects of his character and nature that move you to praise. Be specific with your praise. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 33:6-15**

***“<sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. <sup>10</sup> The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. <sup>11</sup> But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. <sup>13</sup> From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—<sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.”***

Sometimes, we look at the never-ending cycles of evil and brokenness in this world, and we feel hopeless and helpless: who could stand against the raging of the nations, the seemingly inexhaustible downward pull of society? It's like trying to stop the waves and tides of the raging seas. But then we look at God, who “Looks down from heaven and sees all mankind...” *He* is the one whose word formed the stars of the universe, who *“gathers the waters of the sea into jars and puts*

*the deep into storehouses...*” Nothing can stop his ultimate purposes. He is the greatest, no matter what “plans” all the nations scheme. Even when the chaos of the world seems irresistible, we can hope in God’s unending faithfulness. And we know that, as John 1 says, that same Word through whom the heavens were made “became flesh and made his dwelling among us”—we can know God personally and intimately because he’s come to us in Christ to restore the rift between heaven and earth. What in your life or the wider world is causing you trouble and anxiety? What is worrying you today? Take time to consider God’s great power and sovereignty. Remember that he sits “enthroned in the heavens” and will achieve his good and perfect will, no matter what. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 33:16-22**

***“<sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.”***

What are we tempted to place our hope and trust in besides God? What or whom do we look to for ultimate security and purpose apart from God? Think carefully and honestly. It’s oh so easy to let our hearts slip into a subtle kind of idolatry without realizing it: idolatry of comfort and wealth, idolatry of power and security, idolatry of nation and political party. The Bible asserts a radical trust in God: *“We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.”* When we finally lay it all down, we experience a peace that surpasses understanding and a kind of security that transcends all. *God himself.* Are we ready to lay it all down in surrender? *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

**“My Heart is Yours”**

**VERSE 1**

I give you my life  
I give You my trust Jesus  
And You are my God  
And You are enough Jesus

**CHORUS 1**

My heart is Yours my heart is Yours  
Take it all take it all  
My life in Your hands  
My heart is Yours (Lord) my heart is Yours  
Take it all take it all  
My life in Your hands

**VERSE 2**

I lay down my life  
I take up my cross Jesus  
For You are my God  
Whatever the cost Jesus  
O Jesus

**CHORUS 2**

And all to Jesus I surrender  
All to You I freely give  
Oh I will ever love and trust You  
In Your presence I will live

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- **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.”*** (Pete Greig, Lectio365)