



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JULY 14<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! Psalm 40 has always been a favorite. It's an amazing prayer of praise and petition. Some say that it describes the essential testimony of every believer: *"I called for help...he heard my cry...he lifted me out of the pit...he set my feet on a rock...he put a new song in my mouth."* God saves us in love and faithfulness; we respond in worship and trust. In this prayer, the Psalmist reflects on how God's past deliverance had transformed their life, filling them with praise, giving them a story to tell, and forming their heart for obedience. This is the journey of salvation. Then, it's from this place of looking back on God's past deliverance that the prayer shifts attention to the present trouble: while they felt triumphant then, the present struggles have them feeling "poor and needy." But God's deliverance in the past leads them to trust him in the present. This is a good rhythm and pattern for us to follow: look back to look forward; remember, worship, testify, and trust. Today, we're going to take a more open-ended, reflective approach of praying through Scripture, asking God to speak to us right where we are through his word. *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 40** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. <sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him. <sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. <sup>5</sup> Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. <sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. <sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart." <sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, LORD, as you know. <sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly. <sup>11</sup> Do not withhold your mercy from me, LORD; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. <sup>12</sup> For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. <sup>13</sup> Be pleased to save me, LORD; come quickly, LORD, to help me. <sup>14</sup> May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned***

***back in disgrace. <sup>15</sup> May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame. <sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, “The LORD is great!” <sup>17</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.***

- **SONG**

**“And Can It Be”**

**VERSE 1**

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood  
Died He for me who caused His pain  
For me who Him to death pursued  
Amazing love how can it be  
That Thou my God should die for me

**CHORUS**

Amazing love, how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me

**VERSE 2**

He left His Father's throne above  
So free so infinite His grace  
Emptied Himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam's helpless race  
Tis mercy all immense and free

For O my God it found out me

**VERSE 3**

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke the dungeon flamed with light  
My chains fell off my heart was free  
I rose went forth and followed Thee

**VERSE 4**

No condemnation now I dread  
Jesus and all in Him is mine  
Alive in Him, my living Head  
And clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach the eternal throne  
And claim the crown through Christ my own

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**“Mighty to Save”**

**CHORUS**

Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave

**BRIDGE**

Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King  
Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King

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- **PSALM 40:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. <sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.***

The Psalmist opens with powerful imagery of how God not only rescued them, but gave them a firm place to stand and a new song to sing, making their life a witness to God's redemption. It's amazing to soak in the richness of these words and think about our own story, our relationship with God.

Reread the passage slowly. Ask God to speak and draw your attention to a certain word or phrase. Repeat it, reflect, and allow it to guide your prayer for yourself and others. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 40:4-10**

***<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. <sup>5</sup> Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. <sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. <sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” <sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, LORD, as you know. <sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.***

Now, the focus shifts from the Psalmist’s personal experience of salvation to the broader picture of what it means to live faithfully, of all the wonderful ways God has worked out redemption for his people, and what the right response looks like in praise and proclamation.

Read the passage again, asking God to speak. Find the word or phrase that stands out to you. Repeat it and dwell on it. Let it shape your prayer for your life and the lives of others. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 40:11-17**

***<sup>11</sup> Do not withhold your mercy from me, LORD; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. <sup>12</sup> For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. <sup>13</sup> Be pleased to save me, LORD; come quickly, LORD, to help me. <sup>14</sup> May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. <sup>15</sup> May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame. <sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, “The LORD is great!” <sup>17</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.***

After remembering the amazing ways of God’s redemption and reflecting on the right response of worship and testimony, the Psalmist finally shifts attention to the present, a plea for help in the midst of desperate times and an expression of trust in the midst of weakness. The most common, logical pattern of prayer for us seems to be starting with the cry for help, *then* moving to the response of praise, but here that formula is reversed: it *begins* with praise in remembrance of past deliverance, *then* shifts to the present need. There is power and wisdom in this: remember what God has done for you, what God has done for all his people, and what lives we’re called to live in response; *then* bring that to the present struggle, and even in your neediness you’ll find the strength of resting in God’s faithfulness, the ability to trust him in spite of your weakness

One more time, reread the passage. Pray as you read, pause often, listen carefully, ask God to speak. What word or phrase is drawing your attention this time? Repeat it, chew on it, pray on it. Let it guide your prayer for you and others. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

**“God of Revival”**

**VERSE 1**

We’ve seen what you can do  
Oh God of wonders  
Your power has no end

The things you’ve done before  
In greater measure  
You will do again

### PRE-CHORUS

'Cause there's no prison wall  
You can't break through  
No mountain you can't move  
All things are possible  
There's no broken body you can't raise  
No soul that you can't save  
All things are possible (things are possible)

### CHORUS

The darkest night  
You can light it up, you can light it up  
Oh God of revival  
Let hope arise  
Death is overcome, you've already won  
Oh God of revival

### VERSE 2

You rose in victory and now you're seated  
Forever on the throne  
So why should my heart fear what you  
defeated  
I will trust in you alone

### BRIDGE

Come awaken your people  
Come awaken this city  
Oh God of revival pour it out pour it out  
Every stronghold will crumble  
Hear the chains hit the ground  
Oh God of revival pour it out pour it out

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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)