



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JULY 21<sup>ST</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! “Come away with me.” Jesus says this to his disciples in Mark 6:31, as the crowds and the pressures grow he says, “Come away with me to a quiet place and get some rest.” In the love poetry of Song of Songs 2:10 the bridegroom says to his bride, “Come away with me, my beautiful one.” The worship artist, *Jesus Culture*, has a song that goes: “Come away with me, come away with me / It’s never too late, it’s not too late for you / I have a plan for you, I have a plan for you / It’s gonna be wild, it’s gonna be great, it’s gonna be full of me.” There’s a sense in which every time we bring ourselves to the Word he’s saying, “Come away with me!” He has something wonderful, he wants to speak to us. He has a plan, an adventure, a Story, a Kingdom, a Mission for us—if we’ll just trust and follow. So we come back, again and again, to feast on his Word, to seek his face, to worship. Sometimes, the message jumps right out and *grabs us by the shoulders*. Other times, we have to do some digging. Sometimes most of our energy goes into just getting focused from our scattered, busy lives. But he speaks. Come to the Psalms tonight in faith that *God wants to speak to you*. He’s saying, “Come away with me, I have something for you!” *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 41** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. <sup>2</sup> The LORD protects and preserves them—they are counted among the blessed in the land—he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. <sup>3</sup> The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness. <sup>4</sup> I said, “Have mercy on me, LORD; heal me, for I have sinned against you.” <sup>5</sup> My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?” <sup>6</sup> When one of them comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it around. <sup>7</sup> All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, <sup>8</sup> “A vile disease has afflicted him; he will never get up from the place where he lies.” <sup>9</sup> Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. <sup>10</sup> But may you have mercy on me, LORD; raise me up, that I may repay them. <sup>11</sup> I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. <sup>12</sup> Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever. <sup>13</sup> Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.***

- **SONGS**

**“Walk With Me”**

**VERSE 1**

Author of the world walk with me  
Ruler of the earth walk with me  
Calmer of the storm walk with me  
Healer of my heart walk with me

**CHORUS**

How I need You how I need You  
Oh Jesus walk with me  
How I love You how I love You  
Oh Jesus walk with me

**VERSE 2**

Light for every step walk with me  
Giver of each breath walk with me

**BRIDGE**

In Your presence Lord  
There is peace there is rest  
In Your presence Lord  
There is life that never ends  
In Your presence Lord  
There is joy there is joy  
In Your presence Lord  
There is life that never ends

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**“Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus”**

**VERSE 1**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take Him at His word  
Just to rest upon His promise  
Just to know thus saith the Lord

**CHORUS**

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

**VERSE 2**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to trust His cleansing blood  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing cleansing flood

**VERSE 3**

Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just from sin and self to cease  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest and joy and peace

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- **PSALM 41:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. <sup>2</sup> The LORD protects and preserves them—they are counted among the blessed in the land—he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. <sup>3</sup> The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.***

*“Blessed are those who have regard for the weak...”* In one of his most powerful and challenging parables, Jesus said, *“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me...whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me...”* (Matt. 25) “The poor” or “the weak” occurs dozens of times in the Old Testament. God “has regard for the weak,” and we are called to as well. Before his throne, we’re all weak, we’re all in need.

Think about the people in your life. Is there anyone you’re tempted to overlook because they’re “weak,” “needy,” “difficult,” or otherwise inconvenient? Ask God to bring someone to mind and pray for them now. Ask God to show you the right way to relate with and engage them. If you find yourself prompted to take action, follow through—write it down if you have to! *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 41:4-10**

***4 I said, "Have mercy on me, LORD; heal me, for I have sinned against you." 5 My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?" 6 When one of them comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it around. 7 All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, 8 "A vile disease has afflicted him; he will never get up from the place where he lies." 9 Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. 10 But may you have mercy on me, LORD; raise me up, that I may repay them.***

Dealing a serious illness is a terrible thing to go through. Feeling betrayed by people who are supposed to support and befriend you is an awful thing to face. *Experiencing both at the same time is downright horrendous!* At any given time, there are people in our lives, in our circle of friends and family and neighbors, who are dealing with major sickness, or betrayal, or deep hurt. Let's allow the stark language of this Psalm to move our hearts and our prayers outward in compassion: who do you know that is in the midst of dealing with a serious sickness, betrayal, or otherwise hurt? Can you bring yourself to imagine what they might be going through, what they might need right now? Pray for them and their families.

If the person is you today, consider making the first part of verse 10 your prayer: *"But may you have mercy on me, Lord; raise me up..." Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 41:11-13**

***11 I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. 12 Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever. 13 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.***

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen."* He is the God who *is*, from *everlasting past* to *everlasting future*, from infinite to infinite, from before time began and on into eternity. From ancient of days to the vanishing point beyond our sight, time out of memory. *Everlasting to everlasting.* And he is worthy, he is blessed, he is to be praised *from everlasting to everlasting.* That's how great he is. Perfect in power, in love, in wisdom, in goodness. In Christ, he took on flesh, served this broken world, experienced the kind of heartache, hurt, and betrayal that Psalm 41 talks about, laid down his life, and rose again *to save us*, even though we didn't deserve it. He is *the greatest, the best*, and nothing else comes close.

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen."* Just worship him today. Revel in his greatness, his goodness, his eternal nature. Praise him, add your voice to that eternal chorus of praise. And feel the hope and joy and peace rise in your heart as you worship. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

**"Everlasting God"**

**VERSE**

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, We will wait upon the Lord

**PRE-CHORUS**

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

**CHORUS**

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

- 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)