



**An Opportune Time
Lent 2025
Wesley Monumental UMC**

Forward

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and consists of forty days (not counting Sundays) of self-examination, fasting, and prayer.

What that requires is a commitment of time and attention to God and our inner self.

I am grateful for Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge's gift of another Lenten Prayer Guide to assist us in our spiritual journey with Jesus towards the cross.

This year's sermon series for Lent is entitled "An Opportune Time." Hence the title to this prayer book. During the six weeks of Lent, we will examine the temptations of Jesus and remember the tempter's promise to look for "an opportune time" to approach Jesus again.

We all are vulnerable to "opportune times" when in our distraction, busyness, weariness, and desire we risk stumbling into sin (whatever separates me from Christ).

I hope you will use this prayer guide as inspiration and direction into the quiet places where Christ is inviting us to come away and rest our souls. It may well protect us by turning an opportune time from a place of vulnerability to a place of growth.

May You have a Holy Lent!

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Lent 2025

Introduction

More than thirty years ago, I was introduced to the work of a Catholic priest whose name was Michel Quoist. One of his books is entitled Prayers. In it, he teaches us to pray in the midst of daily living. One of his prayers is entitled “Lord, I have Time.” As a preface to that prayer, he acknowledges that all of us complain about not having enough time. But he thinks that is an excuse, for he says “There’s always time to do what God wants us to do, but we must put ourselves completely into each moment that he offers us.”

Ephesians 5:15-17 says:

“Be careful then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

My prayer for all of us as we enter into this Lenten season is that we will make time for prayer so that we might know what the will of the Lord is. The prayers contained in this volume are edited versions of prayers I have shared with you in worship at Wesley. They were and are meant for corporate worship. So I invite all of us to enter into prayer together—from our separate places—as we seek to resist the forces of evil and respond to God’s will for us as individuals and as a faithful congregation.

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Lent 2025

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday

God of our Salvation,
On this Ash Wednesday, we humbly bow as creatures of dust,
born out of the earth by your spoken Word.
Wild fires remind us of the ashes from whence we came and to
which we will return.
We are amazed that You can blow into dust and breathe life
into us.

As we begin our observance of Lent, we confess our deep
need of You as we focus on our mortality and sinfulness.
We do not want to be seen as needy.
We want to be strong and in charge.
We want to be wise and capable
and all-sufficient.
But we are foolish and make idols of ourselves.
Forgive us Lord, for we have sinned.

Lord, would You draw our attention to the truth that without You
we are nothing and that You are the source of all our being,
and knowing and doing.

Lead us through this Lenten journey to turn from ourselves and
to hold fast to You.

This we pray in the name of our Creator God.

Amen

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Loving God, Giver and Sustainer of Life,
We approach You fully at Your mercy for the very air we breathe and dependent upon the bodies with lungs You created for us that enable our breathing. Thank You for creating us. We confess that without You we are nothing.

In the cycle of life, we finish one thing and start another. For some of us, new days are a continuation of the days we have known before. We are grateful for the steadiness of life.

For others, these days are different.

Loved one who have been here with us, are now
with You

Loved ones that have been close at hand are moving
to other places.

Some who were gainfully employed are now seeking
new jobs.

Some are looking for that first real job of adulthood.

Some who were healthy are struggling to find healing
and hope.

Some are moving away from harmful relationships
and are seeking safety.

Some are just restless and need to find their peace
in You

Often, O Lord, we struggle with change. Remind us that

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

Your mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness.

Amen.

Friday, March 7, 2025

Ever constant God,
We are so grateful that from the beginning of time,
You have been steadfast and faithful in our lives.
 You have loved us with an everlasting love.
 You have been with us all the days of our lives
 just as You promised.
 You have guided us when we have allowed You
 to do so.

Thank You for instilling in us our identity as your children
who have been saved by Your grace and called to be Your
servants here in Savannah and around the world.

Lord, somewhere along the way, we have been taught that
the only thing that is constant in life is change. Often that
seems to be so true. Just when we think we have it all
figured out and have all of our ducks in a row, one of those
ducks takes off for destinations unknown.

But as we see that duck moving away, we are called to
remember that Your steadfast love never ceases, Your
mercies never come to an end, and that Your faithfulness is
great.

Help us, O God, to be faithful leaders and followers who are
not out to get what we want, but what it is that will make us
better at serving You here.

Thank You for the opportunities You set before us each and
every day. May we rise up to seize them, to make them our
own. Draw us and keep us close to You and to each other.

Amen

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Creator God, maker of Heaven and earth and all that dwells therein, we approach You with awe and wonder in times of natural disaster. Even when we witness devastation, we give You thanks for Your creation which You declared to be good.

Most of us are grateful for rain which comes without damage.

Others experience difficulties, and still others real hardships:

loss of homes and possessions,
livelihoods that literally are gone with the
wind and the rain,
loss of lives that leave families to
mourn.

We pray for them and ask You to be their comfort and strength in hard days.

Even so, we can find great cause to be thankful for forecasters who work long hours to keep us informed,
officials who provide guidance for our safety,
first responders who pull us to safety when we get in too far for our own good,
medical personnel who care for us when we need their help, and
friends and neighbors who help those in despair.

We confess that sometimes it is the worst of times that brings out the best in us. We pray that we would use the best in us all the time to help those who need us.

Forgive us for trying to be all-sufficient.

Make us wise in our ways of doing.

Make us sensitive to the hearts of those around us.

May we be doers who do as You would have us do.

Help us be the community of believers who seek only to follow You.

March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent

When You Think You're Standing

Luke 4:1-13
I Corinthians 10:12

Lord, at the beginning of this Lenten season as we begin our preparation for Easter, we confess that it is tempting for us to affirm our faithfulness and strong obedience to You.

We do good works.
We are faithful in worship.
We give our tithes and offerings.
We keep the law.
We help one another.
We really believe that we have it
all together when it comes to
serving You.

But truth be told, we are far from being the followers of Christ You want us to be. Forgive us Lord. Use this time of preparation for Easter, to convict us of our sin and create in us clean hearts.

Amen

Monday, March 10, 2025

All-knowing, All-powerful, and Ever-present God,
We approach You with hearts full of love for You,
with gratitude for all Your many blessings in our lives,
with joy that we share with one another as members of this
family of faith.

We love our faith community:
the worship we share,
our times of study and learning,
work that makes life better for others,
sharing our joys,
praying for our needs,
hoping for and dreaming of a world at peace,
supporting each other in times of illness and
death.

It is a precious gift that You have given us in one another.

As we live our lives here, we ask that You will keep us
mindful that we are no more special than any of Your
children in this world.

They, too, are the recipients of Your love and care.
Their needs are important.
Their families are precious.
Their dreams are significant.
Their friendships are deep.
Their losses hurt.

Bless their lives as You have blessed us.

Open our hearts to those who need our care:
those who are ill,
those who lost loved ones in acts of violence,
those who need food and shelter,
those who need jobs with good incomes,
especially those who need to know of Your love for
them.

Help us to share our Faith with them that they may know
Your love in a personal way.

May we walk with You.

Amen

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Generous God, whose provision has sustained us to this very day, we give You thanks for shelter and clothing, water and food.

But God, we are especially thankful for food.

You have given us many opportunities to be grateful for food.

We nibble on Sunday morning between Sunday School and worship while we catch up with one another.

Our children get a snack as part of children's church. We share a meal as a church family on Wednesday evening.

We share a meal with members who have lost a loved one to death.

Lord, have we ever stopped to realize just how much food provides a means for our service and ministry?

Senior adults gather over lunch for a celebration of friendship.

Church volunteers feed needy families.

Groceries are gathered and delivered to the poor.

Generous gifts to our Christmas offering go to food causes.

Food trains organize us to feed those who are sick among us.

And the list of opportunities just goes on and on.

Lord, we confess that sometimes we think that there is nothing that we can do to serve You by serving others.

Maybe we just need to look in the pantry at the bounty You have given us and pray for one more opportunity to share our food. And just maybe, we will attend more closely to the prayer You taught Your disciples when You said "Give us this day our daily bread."

Amen

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Gracious God,
There is nothing that we can say or do that is a surprise to You. Yet, there are things that we must say anyway:

We love You.

We are grateful for all of Your blessings.

We praise You in time of joy.

We call upon You in time of need.

Thank You for knowing us so intimately.

We confess that sometimes we get tired.

We work too much and too long.

We try to juggle too much with work and family.

Our weariness weighs heavily upon our health and relationships.

Time takes its toll.

We age and lose the spunk of our younger years.

We reach the point when we say "We've done that.

It is someone else's turn."

And yet, in Your way of knowing, You say to us,

"Come unto me and rest for my yolk is easy and my burden is light."

And so we look to You.

When we are physically tired, teach us to rest.

Remind us that You know our every thought and even count the hairs on our heads.

As we grow older, help us put our energies into Your will for us at all stages of our life.

When we are ready to quit, redirect our focus to those things we are still able to do and give us the will to do them for You and each other.

And when we can do no more, help us be open to the grace that comes to us through the caring of others until we rest in the joy of Your kingdom.

Amen

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Providing God,
True to Your Word, You did not leave us alone when You ascended into Heaven where You reign with God the Father. You sent your Holy Spirit to dwell within us until that day when we shall live with You in eternity.

So much we can say about the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives: You bring us comfort when we hurt. You guide us when we are perplexed. You empower us when we are weak. Our need for Your work in our lives is great and constant.

We give You thanks for the ways we have witnessed and felt Your power. You have been our comfort that we cannot explain nor want to live without. We seek Your guidance in the perplexing days in which we live.

Lord, help us allow the Holy Spirit to work within us to calm our fears, to open our hearts to differences, to receive the rest that comes when we rest in You.

We ask that the guidance of the Holy Spirit will rest upon every shoulder that steps out into the new and the unknown. Will Your guidance increase their understanding. Will Your understanding fill their hearts and minds as they seek to follow Your will. Open their ears to Your voice. Open their eyes to see Your paths.

And lest we become complacent, empower us to be Your people in this uncertain world in which we live. Empower us with Your Spirit. Guide us in all things

Amen

Friday, March 14. 2025

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
God of all of our days,
we are grateful for your presence with us today.

We are especially grateful for Your presence in the storms of life. Many storms are figurative. Others are literal. We experience long days, dark nights and uncomfortable circumstances. Life falls in upon us. Relationships are damaged or destroyed.

Yet, in the midst of all this, there is room for gratitude for what we have: our lives, our homes, our schools, and our jobs, and the help of others.

We do recognize that for many the literal storms of life linger for a very long time:

 waiting for news about family and friends,
 seeking a place to call home,
 rebuilding livelihoods,
 obtaining healthcare.

How does one start over while needing everything?

Lord, we confess that we need to respond to the heart cries of those who suffer.

 Give us ears to hear their cries of pain.

 Give us hearts to share compassion.

 Give us wills to do all we can to meet their needs
 and relieve their suffering.

Do not allow us to grow complacent in the midst of our normal lives.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,

Forgive us when we fail You.

Lead us to serve You faithfully.

Make us witnesses to your great love for all people,
 even to the ends of the earth.

Amen

Saturday, March 15, 2025

All knowing, forever present, and eternal God,
Only You, are worthy of our praise.
May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our
hearts always be acceptable in your sight.

We give You thanks for this day of life, for health, for
provision of food and clothing, and so many comforts we do
not deserve. Make us truly grateful for these and all Your
many blessings.

As people of much, we confess that we are often ungrateful,
we are often greedy, and we are often stingy. Forgive us for
hoarding that which You have given to us.

Teach us to see the needs around us and to respond to
those needs with grateful hearts. May we see our
responsibility to share and care for one another, for the
stranger among us, for the down and out, and for the
different and the same. May we do so in the here and the
now, and for the future everywhere.

Fill all of them, and us, with Your spirit and love that we may
be brought close to the body of Christ.

We pray all these things believing that You hear our
prayers, and that our prayers matter to You.

Amen

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent

The Flesh

Luke 4:1-4

Ephesians 2:1-3

Lord, we confess that we really like all the things that give us pleasure:

Personal touch

Intimacy

Wonderful food

Refreshing drink

Warm sunny days

Protection from cold

We know that these things are good and
have a place in our lives,
but we also know that they can become
idols in and of themselves that will not only
please us but also will cause us harm.
Help us with priorities and save us from ourselves.

Amen

Monday, March 17 2025

God of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,
We are grateful that You know where we are.
Not only do you know where we are, You also know how
we feel. We are heart sick in the aftermath of shootings,
storms, fires, and all manner of disaster.

How grateful we are that our feelings do not block Your
invitation for us to enter into Your presence with
thanksgiving. The reality is that when You invite us to
come into Your presence, You invite the whole of us: our
thoughts, our feelings, our fears, our questions, as well as
our praise, our thanksgiving and our gratitude.

God of Peace, remind us that when we do not feel
peaceful, You are the Prince of Peace. We confess that
when we wonder about the direction of our country,
we remember that You invited us to turn to You when You
said

“If my people who are called by name will
humble themselves and pray, seek my face, and
turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from
heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Such an invitation calls us to repentance: Forgive us for
angry words and degrading remarks, for arrogance that
grows every time we think we are right about any and
everything, for refusing to see the other's side when it is
needful for understanding.

Forgive us Father, for we have sinned against You and
each other. Open our hearts to Your transforming grace,
that we may be instruments of Your peace.

Amen

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Loving God, known to many while You were here on earth as Rabbi, we too acknowledge You as our Teacher. One of your greatest teachings was about the way we love others.

“Greater love hath no one than this,
than to lay down one’s life for their friends.”

Today, we give You thanks for those men and women who have served and are serving us by serving our country. Many did give their lives in the battles of war. We are grateful for their sacrifice and for the sacrifices made by their families. We ask Your blessings upon them. We give You thanks for all who returned home safely. Bless those among them who struggle with all kinds of needs. Be their healer.

We pray for those who continue to serve. Will You give wisdom and understanding to those who lead them. Will You protect them from enemies, both foreign and domestic. Will You be with their families who also serve in their waiting.

While we are grateful for their service, our deeper prayer is that You will help us to be peacemakers wherever we are. It is a daunting and impossible task to be responsible for peace in all the earth, but we can be peacemakers where we are.

Help us begin with
our own families and friends,
co-workers and business associates,
employees and bosses.

As we work for peace where we are, let us pray for those who work for peace in other places around the world.

May we truly know that You are the
Prince of Peace for us all

Amen

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Creator God,
Maker of Heaven and Earth, and all who dwell therein,
we thank You for all who have come and gone before us.
When we think about the people whose faith and witness
brought
 us to Faith in Jesus Christ,
 and to this place we call our church home,
 among these we call family,
we cannot help but be glad and rejoice.

While we rejoice, we also grieve for those we have lost,
especially those whose deaths are fresh on our hearts.
But even in our grief, we know that our lives have been
 better because they were ours.

Our prayer as we remember them is to be like them:
 to be found faithful in our love for each other,
 to be faithful in our witness to Jesus as our Savior,
 to be faithful stewards of our responsibilities in this
 place,
 to be faithful in our worship and honor of You.

Indeed, may all who come behind us, find us faithful.

Amen

Thursday, March 20, 2025

God of rejoicing, with thanksgiving we bring our prayers.
You have invited us to let our requests be made known.
You have told us not to worry about anything, and yet
we confess that it is not easy for us not to worry:

We see family members whose lives are broken and
hurting, and we want to do something that will
fix the pain.

We see the violence that threatens the lives of
children and adults, and we want weapons
off the street.

We see the faces of the homeless and the jobless,
and we want economic prosperity that will
eliminate all such need.

We see the results of our own neglect and abuse,
and we look for places to focus our blame.

Forgive us Lord, for we sin when we fail to let our requests
be made known and to leave the worrying to You.

In Your presence we remember:

We remember those days when dreams came true:
when sickness gave way to healing;
when the loneliness of death gave way to the
comfort of memories;
when darkness gave way to the light of dawn.

We remember more days when the regular routines
of life filled our time; when it was the familiar
and the comfortable that surrounded us.

And we remember the difficult days that numbly
melted one into the other:

the frustrating days of questions,
the hard days of pain.

We remember these days and we give You thanks
for them. For we made it through these days, even
when we thought we could not.

And for some of us who have not quite made
it through to the other side, we give
You thanks that by Your grace, we
have come this far.

Friday, March 21, 2025

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
We stand between the already and the not yet,
 longing for days long gone when we perceived life to
 be safe, never fearing tomorrow because we felt
 secure in the here and now.
We long for those days for our children and Your children
 everywhere.
And then we remember that You are our provider, and
 protector, and our Peace.
Help us to rest in the assurance of our hope in You.

Even as we live with our concerns, we also give thanks for
all that is ours.
 for family and friends,
 for education and know-how,
 for work and provisions,
 for purpose and meaning,
 for love and compassion.

Teach us to know Your ways and to follow in Your paths
for the sake of Your kingdom and all You came to save.

Amen

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Creator God,

You have given each of us so much for reasons we do not understand.

We have food to eat, clothes on our backs and shoes on our feet.

We have schools where we learn and churches where we worship, and platforms from which to speak our minds.

We stand amazed that we are made in Your image, with the ability to learn and reason and love. In so many ways we are alike. But we are also different.

We do not all look alike.

We do not all reason alike.

We do not all like the same thing.

We do not all have the same needs.

We do not all see the same solutions for those needs.

Yet we are called to remember

that all of us have been created in Your image,
that all of us are equal in Your sight,
and that all of us are equal in the eyes of the law.

We are so grateful for this equality, but we confess that we can be so fearful of each other, so skeptical of each other in so many ways.

Teach us to listen to others with open ears.

Grant new understand in our hearts and new resolve of our wills to work together with You to make this world like You would have it to be.

Amen

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent

Never Enough

Luke 4:5-8

Lord, You assure us that You will supply
all of our needs, and we confess that You do.
But what about all of those other things
that we want?
Are they not included in the ways
You promise to bless us?
We are not asking for harmful or illegal things.
We just want what will give us
pleasure and status.
They are so tempting to have.
Is that too much to ask?

Monday, March 24, 2025

Loving God, Maker of Heaven and Earth,
We come before You as Your people, who are grateful for
all Your many blessings:

Your provisions for our lives,
Your care for our well-being,
Your love that surpasses all understanding.

Thank You for loving us with Your great love,
for caring about the smallest details of our lives,
for providing for us from Your great abundance.

We confess that we are not worthy of Your goodness,
but out of our gratefulness we do seek to live lives of
gratitude.

We are grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit
which you promised and delivered when you
ascended into heaven, a gift that not only provides
us comfort and strength but also gives us
discernment and guidance.

Maybe more than all else, we stand in need of discernment
and guidance as individuals, as a part of your Church, as a
nation, and as Your world.

We see disrespect and long for right relationships
between parents and children, between neighbors,
between citizens and their government, between the
governments of this world.

We witness intolerance and long for understanding.
We decry harm inflicted on men and women and their
children by those who would do them no good.
Lord, help us to know what to do and how to do it.
Teach us to be responsive and helpful.

We long for a world that knows You and the peace that only
you can give. May we follow Your leading in all things as
we seek Your guidance.

Amen

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
Sarah, Rebecca and Rachel,
We remember from whence we came, whose we are and
whom we serve.

Father God, whose son Jesus is our Savior and Lord,
we give You thanks for Your Messiah who lives and reigns
with You.

You love us, and You call us to love You and one
another.

You have been faithful to us, and You call us to be
faithful to You.

You have blessed us beyond measure, and You call
us to be a blessing to others.

You call us as individuals, and You call us as a community
of faith. Reach deep into our hearts and quicken our desire
to follow, enable our spirits to commune with Your Spirit,
mold our wills into Your liking.

Forgive us when we fail to be all that You want us to be,
when we stray from Your way and make paths of our own,
when we depend on ourselves and not on You.

Receive our gratitude for Your goodness, and provision and
love. Make us ever mindful that all that we have and are or
every hope to be is from You.

We lift to You those in need.

Be in their sickness and in their healing,
in their dying and in our grieving,
and in their seeking and in their understanding.

Help us to see You in all things—no matter what.

Thank You for the gift of prayer and for hearing us when we
pray.

Amen

Wednesday, March 26 2025

God of all Ages, Places and People,
We approach You as people of the here and now
 who stand in a long line of the faithful who have
 worshipped and served You through all the ages of
 time.

We are grateful that we have been called to be Your people
and stand in such a line of faithful servants.

We are grateful that You are not anchored to time and
space, nor are You subject to our expectations and whims
about how our lives ought to be lived out today. You know
us, far better than we know ourselves, and You have
planned for us all the days of our lives.

In the midst of this steadfast assurance in You, we do
confess that change is sometimes hard for us:
 new people and places, new jobs and expectations,
 new responsibilities and challenges,
 loss of familiarity and comfort, loss of skills and
 direction, loss of title and power.

When we shift our routines,
from quieter days to busier days,
from spontaneity to scheduled commitments,
we rest all our days with You.

May we be faithful to You and Your church,
to our families and friends,
to our jobs and responsibilities,
to the future You have for us all the days of our lives.

Change us for the better.
Change us for the sake of your kingdom here on earth.
Change us for the sake of our world today.
Change us for our own sake.

Amen

Thursday, March 27, 2025

God of Peace, we are so grateful for the hope, peace, joy and love which paved the way for Your coming into this world—especially Your peace.

We are people who need and want to be people of peace. We confess that we often fall short of living peaceably with all.

Sometimes our efforts to be peacemakers are rejected by those with whom we seek to be at peace.

Sometimes we miss opportunities for peacemaking because we are not attuned to situations that are not peaceful.

And sometimes, O God, we are not peacemakers because we intentionally chose not to be.

Forgive us when we fail.

Increase our awareness of opportunities for peace.
Make us instruments of your peace.

We lift up troubled hearts and minds due to disasters of fire.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Lead the way to recovery.

Turn their eyes toward the spring when the green will again appear upon the earth.

May they find Your peace in the pieces of their lives.

Amen

Friday, March 28, 2025

Loving and Guiding God,
who created us with bodies, and spirits, and minds,
we give You thanks for jobs well done and
new challenges ahead.

We celebrate with students who complete a
course of study.

We celebrate technical training and military service
and new jobs.

We are grateful for all who have helped and supported
along the way:

Parents and Teachers,
Friends and Classmates,
Ministers and Employers,
And of course, You, O God.

We ask Your blessings on all who move on to new
commitments and responsibilities.

Be with them in the transitions.

Surround them with good people who have their best
interest at heart.

Give them energy to work, and wisdom to make
good choices, and the integrity to meet
responsibilities with honesty and honor.

Continue to surround them with Your love and
hold them close to You.

We pray that they will remain faithful to You and Your will
for their lives.

Lord, not only for them, but also for those whose place in
life it is to keep on doing what they have been doing,
those without work who want and need Your
provision, and those seeking a new place to serve.

May they all see Your hand at work in their lives.

Use us to aid them if we can.

Amen

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Mighty God, who parted the waters for the Hebrews,
who calmed the sea from inside the boat,
who led the shepherd beside still waters,
we praise You for being in the natural storms of life.

We pray for Your children in peril:
for any in harm's way and all who respond to needs,
for those who evacuate and those who care for
them,
for those who make decisions that focus on life and
death,
for those who mourn for those who die.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

As we pray, help us focus on the resources that we have
that can be useful:

our money, our boats and survival equipment,
our blood donations, our grocery carts filled with
staples and necessities.

Lord, in Your mercy, use what we have to offer.

As we pray, and as we give, we give thanks to You for
being with all those who are affected.

We know that You did not target these precious
people for destruction.

You are not trying to punish anyone for their deeds.

You are not indifferent to the ways that nature
behaves and the destruction it can bring.

Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us if we try to blame You.

And Lord, while we do not want to blame

You, we do trust that You will make things right again.

Calm the waters and frightened hearts.

Restore hope to those who have lost everything.

Give strength to those who are barely holding on and
to those who are holding the ropes for others.

May good sense prevail as we all work together for the good
that comes from You.

Amen

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Watch This

Luke 4:9-12

Sometimes, O Lord, we really do believe that
all the world's a stage and
we are up for Oscars for the best performance.

We do insane things just to show off.
We take chances with actions that can do
much harm.
We seldom know when enough is enough.

Forgive us for being cocky and
too self-assured.
Keep us from harming ourselves
and especially others.

Teach us that we are not You.

Amen

Monday, March 31, 2025

Today, O God, we are convicted by the role we play in the lack of peace in our world. We find it difficult to live in harmony with those who are like us. Sometimes we even seek to punish others with whom we disagree.

Forgive us, Father, for we have sinned.

We confess that we struggle with Your Word which so pointedly tells us "To love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us."

Lord, do You really mean that You want us to pray for extremists who commit horrendous acts of violence on innocent people?

Lord, do You really want us to lift them up as Your children who are in need of Your care?

Lord, is this what You meant when You said for us to love one another as You have loved us?

Forgive us Father for even asking these questions.

Of course, that is exactly what You mean.

And so Father, we lift up those we call our enemies.

We pray that You will endow them with wisdom and loving hearts for all Your people everywhere.

We don't know how You would do that or what it would look like, but we ask that You do it anyway.

We lift up families of our enemies. We are pretty sure that parents and children of all people hurt for their own and weep for their children.

Will You move among them, comfort them in their need, move in their lives, draw them to You and Your great love for them.

God of peace, within our limited knowledge, we ask for understanding. Give us minds to know Your will, hearts to love our enemies, and wills to be instruments of peace.

Amen

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Gracious and Loving God, we bow with grateful hearts for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us:

for another day of life with all its promise,
for food and shelter that feeds and protects,
for family and friends that love and support.

Through Your infinite grace You have given us life eternal:

not because we deserve it, for we do not,
not because we have earned it, for we can not,
but because You love us and desire that we know
You.

For Your love and all Your many blessings, receive our thanks, O Lord.

Understanding and Forgiving God, we bow with confessing hearts for we know we are not all that You want us to be:

We do things we should not do.
We do not do things that we should.

We seek our way when we should be walking after You.

We want to be loved without loving.
We want to receive without giving.
We want to reap without sowing.

Forgive us Father, for we have sinned. Hear our confessions, O Lord.

Sustaining and Healing God, we intercede on behalf of Your children everywhere who are ever in need of Your presence and power:

for bodies ravaged by disease and injury,
for lives in turmoil because jobs are gone and
relationships are broken.

for lives without hope because they do not know You
and Your saving grace.

For these needs and others that only You can know, hear our prayers, O God, for we pray in the name of our Living and Loving Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Loving God, when we gather to worship, we are just one small part of Your Family of Faith.

We gather for many reasons;

because You bid us come,
because we want to praise You,
because we feel the need to be together,
because we want to encourage one another,
because we need to be filled by You.

For whatever reason that draws us together, we pray that our presence will honor You.

We have much for which to be thankful:

clothes on our backs, shoes on our feet,
food in our stomachs, roofs over our heads,
family and friends beside us.

How blessed we are.

You have graced us with the invitation to come before You boldly in prayer. We do that frequently on our own behalf, and we seek to do it as we should on behalf of others.

Through the Holy Spirit, You are our Comforter when we hurt, our Source of Power when we are weak, our Guide when we are perplexed and in deep need of Your leadership in our own lives as well as in the life of our country.

We have had so many disturbing weeks in our country.

People are on edge. Emotions run high. We find ourselves at odds with others--even our sisters and brothers in Christ with whom we worship.

We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, to temper us, to increase our hearing and to fill us with understanding and care for one another.

Forgive us when we sin against one another.
Create in us clean hearts.

Amen

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Loving God, Light of the World,
We give You thanks for the opportunity to worship You.
When days get hurried, and we try to do too much in too
little time, it is good to know that You are calling us here for
rest and renewal.

Forgive us when we replace our time with You with
busyness and meaningless actions.
Forgive us when we get wrapped up in stuff and fail to
focus on Your Light.

In the Light that is You,
we can see clearly all that is important,
what it is that You would have us do,
and how it is that we do Your will.
We are reminded that Your faithfulness is real and ever
present with us.

We lift into Your healing Light the families that grieve.
May You be their comfort and strength as they lean on
Your faithfulness to them.
There are many who stand in need of your presence in the
midst of
illness,
broken relationships,
financial hardships,
tough decisions,
and other difficulties we know nothing about.
And some are experiencing really good times and just need
to be about sharing those good times with You and
others.
Light the way for all of them, we pray.

Amen

Friday, April 4, 2025

God of Love, we worship in a church where we say that Love dwells, and we believe that it does.

It is a place where we experience Your love and grace.

It is a place where we share our joys and sorrows with You and each other.

It is a place where all are invited and welcome.

We are grateful for those special people in our lives who call out the very best in us.

We are better because of them.

Help us remember that they are gifts from You, created by You, to make our lives full and meaningful.

Help us treat them with the love and care of their Creator.

Lord, we confess that we often need to be reminded of what we were taught as children:

Jesus loves the little children,

All the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white,

They are precious in His sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to see people as Your children.

Give us

eyes to see as You see,

ears to hear as You hear,

hearts to love as You love.

Even as we ask for so much,

we give You thanks for so much more that You provide each and every day.

May our gratitude be lived out by the way we Love.

Amen

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Loving and Creator God,
whose majesty is beyond comprehension,
whose love is unconditional and unending,
whose ways are beyond all our understanding,
we approach you in prayer as children who want to praise
You, to give You thanks for Your goodness to us, and to
marvel at the creative work in the world You have given us.

We confess that is too easy for us to discount so much of
Your power in our lives:

We give ourselves credit for success in education
and business.

We claim that our good health is due to the care we
give our bodies.

We charm ourselves into relationships thinking that it
is our dynamic personalities that make us so
well-liked.

Forgive us Lord, for failing to be who You have created us
to be and for striving to be the people we want to create in
our own image. Help us to ever be mindful of Your hand in
all that we are or ever hope to be.

And because You have invited us to make our petitions
known to you, we share our concern for Your world that is
hurting in so many ways:

for people whose lands are torn by war,
for those who struggle to rebuild following natural
disasters,

for those who are ill and struggle for life,
for those whose relationships are broken,
for those who face important decision about work
and education,
for those who grieve.

Thank you, Lord, for life and provision, for love and family,
for faith and Your salvation. May we be faithful in our
witness to You and in our care for one another.

Amen

April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent

My Will Be Done

Matthew 26:36-46

Lord, we confess that we are not very good at
letting go of our own wills in deference to
Yours or that of someone else.

Sometimes we are self-centered and
really want our own way.
Forgive us.

Sometimes we are looking out for others
and really believe that we have a good plan for them.
Help us trust that You have the other's best interest
at heart and are looking out for them, too.

Teach what it means to say
"Thy will be done" and to really mean it in any and all
circumstances

Monday, April 7, 2025

Creator God, who formed us from dirt, we are ever aware that it is the redeeming work of Jesus that has saved us from our sins and cleansed us from all unrighteousness.

Your love draws us into relationship with You.

Your Word teaches us that You are the Way,
the Truth and the Life, and Your Spirit
guides us to walk in Your ways.

Thank You for Your saving grace and mercy that makes our salvation possible.

Thank You for families that faithfully bring children to church, rear them in Christian homes, teach them what it looks like to follow Christ in daily living.

Thank You for Sunday School teachers, choir leaders, VBS workers, and ministers who are faithful witnesses of what life in Christ is all about.

Thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sin, helps us discern Your Leading, and walks with us along the way.

Lord, if we are honest with ourselves and You, we acknowledge that though we put our faith and trust in Jesus as Lord of life, we find ourselves always in need of conversion, for our lives are filled with thoughts and actions that are not pleasing to You.

Would You take our unkind words and deeds and turn them into gracious words and deeds.

Would You take our selfish thoughts and attitudes and turn them outward to those who need affirmation and encouragement?.

Would You take our sinful selves and forgive us when we fail to be the children you want for us to be.

Would You take all of us—our hearts and minds and wills—and use them to further your kingdom here on earth.

Amen

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Creator God, You have invited us to come before You with boldness. We are grateful that You wish for us to be open and truthful with You. And so we come boldly. May we always keep You first and above all else in our lives no matter how important other matters may be.

Forgiving God, our hearts are broken by our sins against You and against others. We confess that our deeds, words and attitudes have brought divisions among us. Forgive us, Lord, for we have sinned.

We seek oneness with You and each other. Guide us to respect all people and lead our churches to work together for Your kingdom even when we disagree on matters of Faith.

Guiding God, may our families fit Your image, our workplaces serve Your people, our churches and communities be models of truth and justice and peace. May they all reflect forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and unity. Convict us of our prejudices. Help us see clearly that we are all Your children created in Your image.

We long for the security of our nation and its people, just as You long for the security of all Your children. Help us lead in peace and unity. Guide our national, state and local leaders. Give them the discernment needed to be wise, courage to be effective, and energy to do their work well.

We lift to You all those who need a strong sense of Your presence in their lives:

those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
those whose bodies are ill and in need of healing,
those who are lonely and in need of friendship and
love,
especially those who need to come into a saving
relationship with Jesus Christ, who is our hope and
our salvation.

Amen

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Loving God, Father of us all,

We give You thanks for this day and any opportunity it gives us to worship You in all Your goodness.

When we call you "Father" we think of you as the Being that gave us life, loves us, cares for us, provides for us, guides us, comforts us, sustains us, and calls us Your own.

What a wonderful relationship You have called us into and want us to share with You. We are so blessed, and we give You thanks.

We give You thanks for our earthly parents.

Many have been so much like You.

Some have fallen short but have tried to do their best.

Some have been absent from the lives of their children and left a void that others have tried to fill.

Today we give You thanks for our own, and we give you thanks for those who stood with us when our own could not.

Thank You for relatives who were both mother and father.

Thank You for teachers, and coaches and neighbors.

Thank You for pastors, and Sunday School teachers and choir leaders.

Thank You for the villages who have been there for us all along the way.

Lord, we do not take lightly the children who have been given to us. We acknowledge our responsibility and privilege to be a part of their lives. Help us to be present for them, to love and provide, to teach by example and word, to live our faith in You before them that they will come to follow You.

Amen

Thursday, April 10, 2025

All loving, all knowing and all guiding God,
We bow as Your children who know Your love, who live in
relationship with You because You know us, whose
guidance is available for us if we but seek it.

We are so grateful for Your presence in our lives. Without
it, we would be lost, wandering aimlessly or dead in our
tracks with no idea where to go or what to do.

Lord, we live in a world that is filled with Your glory.
Spring is all around us. Trees are budding. Flowers are
blooming. We see such evidence of resurrection all around
us. What joy we know in serving a living God.

But in the midst of the eternal life we are experiencing,
There is so much of our world that needs redeeming:
relationships, sin, poverty, hunger, homelessness, politics,
and wars.

Lord if we are to love You and each other as You love us,
We need to allow ourselves to be guided by You in all
things.

Teach us to own our responsibility in healing broken
relationships.

Bring our sins to the forefront of our hearts and hear
our confessions.

Give us the willingness to work to end poverty for all
people.

Multiply our efforts to feed the elderly, the children,
and the forgotten out of our own abundance.

Multiply our efforts to provide affordable housing.

Teach us the art of listening, cooperation and
compromise in our political arenas.

Lead us to learn of war no more.

Guide us here to follow You in all things.

Amen

Friday, April 11, 2025

Loving God, we confess our love for You.
We are so grateful for Your presence in times of sudden
and immense loss of life in our church family, among our
friends and family, and even in the larger world when we
learn of great loss.

In the normal routines of life, we do not expect tragedies,
but they come, and we are left to grieve and wish they were
not so. In the wake of death, we are called to
remember the death of others we have lost and whose lives
we continue to mourn.

Lord, help all who mourn to bring their grief to You,
just as it is and just as they are.
Guard their hearts.
Give them comfort and strength and peace.
May we not forget that we do not get over grief and just
move on with life as though all is well.
Lord, we really need You to help us make it through.

With Your help, O God,
may we be steadfast in our care for one another.
May we be real in the giving of our offers to help.
When we have no words, speak through our
hearts and our actions.

Lord, we know that hearts can love deeply and tenderly.
We know that hearts can be broken, and they can be
healed.
May we handle the hearts of one another with care.

Amen

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Loving God, You who created us and who knows everything about us, we thank You for your deep love for us as You watch over us all of the time.

We cannot pretend to understand how You do that, but we are told through Your Word that You do. So we choose to believe Your working in our lives, all the time and in all circumstances.

But, Lord, we confess that there are times when we need to have a strong sense of Your presence and working among and in us.

With our head knowledge, we also need heart knowledge. We pray for all who were affected by the fires in California. Many are overwhelmed—Not only by the loss but also by the enormity of the tasks that lie ahead to recover and rebuild.

Be with them as they attempt to move forward.

It is not easy, we know. But we ask that You will open our hearts here to help those who are there in the midst of the destruction.

May all who need, find their help in You and in those of us You call to help.

We love You.

We long to be like You.

We long to know Your ways.

Hear our hearts and our words as we pray.

Amen

**April 13, 2025
Palm Sunday**

The Wide Road

Matthew 21:1-11

Thank You, Lord, for celebrations.
We do love a parade.
It is so easy to get caught up in the moment.
We love to cheer and clap and show our enthusiasm.
In fact, we love it so much,
we really like to set the hard stuff aside
and just move on to the next party.

Hold us back, Lord.
Help us not to jump from Palm Sunday
all the way to Easter Sunrise
without walking through Gethsemane,
standing at the foot of the Cross, and
weeping at the tomb.

Amen

Monday, April 14, 2025

Lord, we have come to call this week Holy.
In hindsight, we can see that it truly is.

It was such a busy week.

Following the triumphal entry,
You cursed a fig tree,
You cleansed the Temple,
You had Your authority questioned,
You told parables.

You reminded them, yet again, that they were to love the Lord
their God with all of their hearts, souls, minds and strength.

And then there was Passover.

You shared the meal with Your disciples—
even the one who was to betray You.

What is it about sharing a meal that can be so revealing?
Is it that we get so comfortable that we let down our guard?
We confess we did not need to let down our guard with You.
We need to be honest with ourselves about who we are.

We confess that we do not need to be in Your presence to be
transparent to You.

You have searched us, and You know us.
You discern our thoughts from far away.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
There is no way that we can flee from Your presence.

This week is Holy, O God, because You and
You alone are Holy.

Help us remember that Holy Week is about You, but You
made it about us, because You were preparing to die
for us and our sin.

Lord, be merciful to us sinners.

Amen

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Lord, we are often confused but never as much as we are by the plot to betray Jesus.

Why would religious leaders be so against your Son?

Why would one of His own disciples join in the scheme to betray Him to authorities?

Surely, we would never do such a horrendous thing.

We had such great expectations for Him and all He could do for us.

He could feed us.

He could heal us.

He could teach us.

What was not to like? He was perfect for us.

But, we confess that we did join in the plot.

We turned the tables on Him just as He turned the tables on the moneychangers.

Like the moneychangers, we do not honor His house of worship.

Like the disciples, we talk a big game, and then we do not keep our promises to follow.

Like Peter, we do not speak up for You when given the opportunity.

Forgive us Lord, for we are so guilty of doing all of those things that You came to save us and the disciples from.

If we are honest, we confess that Jesus came to save us from ourselves, and we are so humbled by His sacrifice and love for us.

Convict us, Lord.

Show us our sin.

Be in our repentance.

Be in our restoration.

Amen

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

A Prayer of David
Psalm 51:1-13 NRSV

Have mercy on me, O God,
 According to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercies
 Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 And cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions.
 And my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone have I sinned,
 And done what is evil in your sight,
So that you are justified in your sentence
 And blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
 A sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being:
 Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop,
 And I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
 Let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sin,
 And blot out my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 And put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
 And do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 And sustain in me a willing spirit.

Amen

Thursday, April 17, 2025

As we gather on this darkest of Holy Nights, O God,
We confess that we have sinned.

We have sinned by doing that which does not honor
You.

We have sinned by doing that which is harmful to
others.

We have sinned by doing what makes us less than
You created us to be.

We confess that there is nothing that we can do that will
make us right with You save the work of Jesus through His
life, death and resurrection. We are grateful for His saving
work and Your grace.

We remember the events of this day.

We remember the preparations for the Passover
meal with Your Disciples.

We remember the meal itself and those who
gathered here with You.

We remember Your example of servanthood as You
washed the feet of Your disciples.

We remember that one was to betray You.

And we remember that all pledged not to.

But they did, and so do we.

Lord, would You forgive us, yet again.

Would You cleanse us, yet again.

Would You right our ways and use us, yet again.

In the stillness of this hour, may we commit ourselves
to fully live the events of this day.

Amen

April 18, 2025
Good Friday

Almighty God, it is Good Friday.

All that comforts us is knowing that You are the beginning and the end of all that is.

Alpha God, You were there when the world was created from nothing but Your spoken word. We know You are Word.

You were there when the breath of life was breathed into our bodies. We know that You are Life.

You were there when the light was separated from the darkness. We know that You are Light.

You were there when You entered into a relationship with Your creation. We know that You are Love.

We confess that through our own failures, we have tarnished Your beautiful creation.

We fail to speak the truth of Your Word.

We fail to share life with those who are dying.

We fail to shine Your light in the darkness.

We fail to love as You have loved us.

Forgive us God. We would be more like You:

speaking Your truth,

allowing Your Spirit to flow through us,

shining Your light in the darkness,

loving as You love us.

Omega God,

We fear the uncertainty of the days that lie before us,
but we know You hold those days in Your hands.

We dread the threats and trauma that surround us,
but we know that You are the Prince of Peace.

We walk on paths of the unknown,
but we know that it is Your Spirit that guides our feet.

Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Just as You were the beginning Word, we know that You will be the last Word.
Alpha and Omega. Amen

Saturday, April 19, 2025
Holy Saturday

It is such a dark day.
The tomb behind that big stone and
the body of Jesus are so cold.
We feel so empty inside.

We are at a standstill.
We do not know what to do with ourselves.
We do not know what to do with life as we know it.
We see no point in going on.
We thought You were to be the Messiah.
We are so disappointed,
and we crumble in the face of our loss.

Maybe things will be different in the morning—but right now
they could not be any worse.

God, if You are there, speak to us.
We are at a loss for words.
We need Your help.

April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday

Most Holy, Loving and Living God,
We worship this morning with spirits filled with joy,
lives full of hope, and hearts full of love for You and the gift
of salvation made possible through Jesus Christ.

How could we not be filled with praise when we bear
witness to Your resurrection following Your betrayal by
Judas, the denial of Your disciples, Your condemnation by
the leaders and the people, Your cruel death on a cross,
and Your burial in a tomb?

Yet, You were raised from the dead, just as You said.
And today, we stand in a very long line of witnesses
who know that, indeed, You live and reign with God in
Heaven.

We claim to be resurrection people, but we confess, O God,
that we do not always live as resurrection people.
We do not come near as often as we should.
Sometimes we go out too far, and we stay out too long.
We devise our own plans, and we steer our own course.
We betray You when we do not profess our faith before
others.
We crucify You on the cross of indifference and bury You in
the dark places of our lives.

Open our hearts to our need for Your forgiveness,
our minds to the instruction of Your Word,
our wills to returning to You with all of ourselves.

We stand in a long line of followers who call themselves
Christians.
We are grateful for those who came before us and for their
witness of your salvation.
May those who come behind us, find us faithful, that they
too may come to know your saving grace.
Amen

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Taken from Pergola of Oliver Hall

