

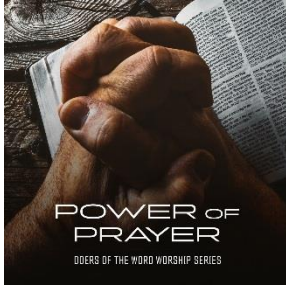
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



“Doers of the Word”

Worship Series

Week 5

We think prayer is something we know about. But do we? There are many who hear the common “sending our thoughts and prayers” and believe that it is a way of avoiding taking a stand and making the changes that need to be made. How do we redeem the idea of prayer? James doesn’t believe it is ineffectual. This epistle of doing, of putting your faith to work in the world, of living out salvation in ways that impact the world around you, also believes that prayer is a power we need to use. Prayer and action are not opposites but complements in the spectrum of responding in faith. Prayer can be a launching pad to action and then a reflection on the action done, and through it all, prayer is a way of being reminded of the presence of the Spirit in what we do. Today we focus on prayer and how important it is to our spiritual life. So, let us begin our time together by opening our conversation with our Lord in prayer.

We praise you, O God, for though you do as you please, your pleasure is justice with compassion. We worship you, O God, for though you choose your servants as you wish, you elect people who are called to serve all in obedience to you. We are awed by the powers of nature but assured that there is no force or being that can overpower you. We are most grateful that you make yourself known to us through the healing and saving power of Jesus Christ, our Leader and Friend. Amen.

A Call to Worship *(based on James 5:13-20)*

Are any among you suffering?

Then let us pray.

Are any cheerful?

Then let us sing songs of praise.

Are any among you sick?

Then let us turn to each other for God's healing touch.

The prayer of faith will save us

And God will lift us up.

Prayer *GOD WHISPERS TO EACH OF US*

Leader: God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

People: My spirit answers, here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

Leader: Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

People: Here we are, Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that the world may be one through the power of your love.

Praise Hymn #3121 If You Believe and I Believe

3121 If You Believe and I Believe

Moderato
a cappella

The musical score is written for a cappella in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to-geth-er pray, the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free, and set God's peo-ple free, and set God's peo-ple free; the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free.' The chords are indicated above the vocal line: G, C, D7, G, C, D7, G in the first system; G, C, D7, G, C, D7, G in the second system; G, G, Am, D, Am, G/D in the third system; G, C, D7, G, C, D7, G in the fourth system.

If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to-geth-er pray,
the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free,
and set God's peo-ple free, and set God's peo-ple free;
the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free.

Worship & Song 3121

WORDS: Traditional Zimbabwe

MUSIC (IF YOU BELIEVE, Irr.): Traditional Zimbabwe; arr. John L. Bell, © 1991 The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... James 5:13-20

(New Revised Standard Version)

The Prayer of Faith

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters,[a] if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's[b] soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn #2246 Deep in the Shadows of the Past

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Deep in the shadows of the past,
far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God
across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of humankind
by them was sensed and shown;
a promise calling them ahead,
a future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods
they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name:
"I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires,
in story, song and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on
a past that promised more.

From Exodus to Pentecost
the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past,
recorded what they knew,
or with their letters and laments,
their prophecy and praise
recovered, kindled and expressed
new hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived,
for leaders, long ago,
who sifted, copied and preserved
the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet
our promise, strength and call,
the model of emerging faith,
alive with hope for all.

Meditation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who has rescued us from those who would destroy us. Your power and might are great, and your mercy is poured out on us whom you love. Our help is in your blessed Name, O you who have made heaven and earth.

We have been entrusted with the way of life, for your Word has dwelt among us. But we become so puffed up with our own importance that we ignore the simplest acts of mercy. You have called us to be like salt, adding flavor to life. Yet we lose our sense of mission and cease to be all you have called us to be. Deliver us from judgement and forgive our sin that we may live forever in your presence and sing your praises for eternity.

By the gift of your Spirit, help us to see that we share your task of evangelism with many people from many different places. May our work be done for the common purpose of spreading the gospel of Christ.

We life up before you this day our brothers and sisters who are in distress. By the ministry of the laying-on-of-hands and anointing and prayer, we have confidence that, as your will directs, you will deliver them from evil, preserve them in all goodness, and bring them to everlasting life.

O God, turn our sorrow into gladness and our mourning into a holiday. Hear and answer us, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

Departing Hymn #2196 We Walk by Faith

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We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod,
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

That when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

Sending Forth

Let us go out into the world, understanding that we are not of it, knowing that we are your children and baptized in your Holy Spirit. So let us walk in unity, showing the world that knew not our savior that we are indeed one. We cannot be divided. We cannot be conquered. We will stand together.