

Nine Prayers for a New Season

September 2024

As we head into the fall season, the winds of change will be blowing about us at Greenwich. The process of discerning our denominational future continues, the Greenwich leadership team will begin the first stages of a long-range planning effort. And there is a presidential election! What better way to enter this season than by engaging in prayer for God's will to be done among us.

May the following scriptures and prayers serve to inspire a deeper encounter with God, as we seek God's favor for our lives and the Greenwich church family.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7*

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches
he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
may have power, along with all the saints,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
and to know this love that surpasses knowledge –
that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”
Ephesians 3:16-21*

The Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Take Time - by Peter Marshall

*In the Name of Jesus Christ, who was never in a hurry,
We pray, O God, that Thou wilt slow us down,
For we know that we live too fast.
With all eternity before us, make us take time to live –
Time to get acquainted with Thee,
Time to enjoy Thy blessings,
And time to know each other. Amen.*

The Prayer of Jabez

*“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel,
‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!
Let your hand be with me,
and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’
And God granted his request.”
1 Chronicles 4:10*

The Serenity Prayer (attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Workers for the Harvest

"Jesus said, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his harvest field.'"
Matthew 9:37-38

A Marriage Prayer by Martin Luther

Lord Jesus, grant that I and my spouse
may have a true and understanding love for each other.
Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust.
Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony.
May we always bear with one another's weaknesses
and grow from each other's strengths.
Help us to forgive one another's failings
and grant us patience, kindness, cheerfulness
and the spirit of placing one another ahead of self.
May the love that brought us together
grow and mature each passing year.
Bring us both even closer to you through our love for each other.
Let our love grow to perfection through the love of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Moses's Prayer for God's Glory

"Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory.'
And the Lord said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you,
and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence.'
Exodus 33:18-19

Jesus's Prayer for Unity among Christians

"Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed...
'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me
and have loved them even as you have loved me.'"
John 17:23

The Breastplate of St. Patrick

I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.