
Dear FCC Folks,

While we will not be able to gather at church tomorrow morning for prayer and praise, it is still very possible to be the body of Christ at prayer!

Attached, and copied below, please find a service of morning prayer which I will be praying tomorrow morning at 10 am. I invite you to join me wherever you are. And, if you cannot use it at 10 am, you can use it at a time that works for you. Or maybe several times in the coming days!

You can print out copies, or use your screen. If you are alone, read aloud *both* the regular and the bold print. Sing! If you're not comfortable singing, read and reflect on the lyrics. Maybe you will want to call another person and do morning prayers together!

I do pray that we will find ourselves growing closer to God and to one another in these anxious days. My prayers are there with and for you.

Godspeed,

Pastor Dennis

MORNING PRAYER

First Congregational Church

March, 2020

Opening

Lord, open my lips,

that my mouth may proclaim your praise.

Make haste and save me, God;

Lord, come quickly to my help.

The world belongs to God,

the earth and all its people.

How good and lovely it is

to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together

justice and peace join hands.

If the Lord's disciples keep silent,

these stones would shout aloud.

Lord, open our lips;

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise:

Hymn of Praise

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

O QUANTA QUALIA

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.**

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

We have been proud and overbearing.

We have asserted our own importance and been jealous of others.

We have despised the weak and slandered those we envy and dislike.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

We have been angry in our hearts and in our words.

We have returned evil for evil.

We have done violence ourselves and condoned the violence of others.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

“Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be consoled.

”We have not borne our own sorrow and suffering

with the patience which comes from faith.

We have failed to show compassion and care for others who suffer.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

I believe that God forgives and sets us free.
**We believe that God forgives and sets us free;
and at the day's beginning,
we commit ourselves
to following where Christ calls
and to loving one another.**

Scripture Readings and Reflection

Let us wait upon the Holy Spirit.
And listen for the Word of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Matthew 13:53-58

Silence

To conclude reflection time:

Satisfy us with your love in the morning
and we will live this day in joy and praise.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us prepare ourselves for the day before us, and claim its potential sent by God.
Let us pray.
We bring to God our concerns for today . . .

(These may be expressed by anyone)

We bring to God the people of today . . .

(Free prayer as before)

And let us pray for ourselves . . .

(Free prayer as before)

Lord, give us wisdom before we speak,
understanding while we listen,
sensitivity towards those we meet,
and the perspective of your kingdom
in which to see the things of the earth.

Bring us to the day's ending
blessed through having shared the day's beginning.
We ask this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together:

*... ending with **The Lord's Prayer***

Closing Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

Benediction

Now to God
who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to God be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.

This liturgy is adapted from *A Wee Worship Book*, © 1999 Wild Goose Worship Group