

Faith Family Prayer Grouping

Lord Jesus Christ,

We are so thankful to you that you have said,

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.”

We are thankful for the ease with which you walked upon this earth,
generosity and kindness you showed to people, the devotion with
which you cared for those who were out of the way and in trouble,
the extent to which you even loved your enemies and laid down
your life for them. We are so thankful to believe that this is a life
for us, a life without lack, a life of sufficiency. It’s so clear in you,
the sufficiency of your Father and the fullness of life that was
poured through you, and we’re so thankful that you have promised
that same love, that same life, that same joy, that same power for us.

Lord, slip up on us today. Get past our defenses, our worries, our concerns.

Gently open our souls, and speak your Word into them. We believe you want
to do, and we wait for you to do it now,

In Your name,

Amen.

- Dallas Willard (1935-2013)

Oh God, who’s word is heading in the framework of the world, shines in the mind of man, and is made flesh in Jesus Christ; we have heard Thee calling us by name, and like sheep to a shepherd, children to a father, we come to Thee.

In every age men have heard Thy voice, and we can hear it still. We have journeyed far, but Thy voice has followed; we have been careless, rebellious, and sometimes tried to drown Thy call; but as we dared to hearken, it came back again, and is with us to this hour.

We know we can never roam where that voice will not follow, nor shall we ever try again; for we know it leads to joy and rest, to happy service and two perfect freedom. We know it is the voice of love beyond imagination or desire, the call of a heart that feels and cares.

So long, so late, and many of us so sad, yet at last we come. Fold us with Thy sleep, number us among Thy family, call us to be Thy friends. Amen.

- From *The Temple* (author & date unknown)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

- *The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer* (1979, p. 352)

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the first responders and medical personnel, please keep them safe.

Thank you for resources like groceries, technology and the jobs that we have.

We pray for the homeless, those who no longer have a place that they can enter into like a restaurant or store as a momentary respite from their plight, and are not sure where they are going to be getting their meals.

We pray for those who are in prisons and jails; the situation is complex, Lord. We pray protection from the guards and any who come from the outside potentially bringing the virus inside; we pray for prisoners and their families and friends who are cut off from visits, also for the shortage of resources in the commissaries.

We have so much to be thankful for and yet, Lord, we beseech you to bring this to an end soon.

Please show us where we are needed and give us the courage and insight to know when being who we need to be means playing it safe when it means getting out and helping.

As the Ohio State zoom press conference ends with the singing of the benediction, we are brought to our knees, we are brought to tears.

May all of us be singing your benediction all the time. Amen.

LORD, HIGH AND HOLY, MEEK AND LOWLY

Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision,
Where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights;
Hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.

Let me learn by paradox
that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells,
and the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine;

Let me find thy light in my darkness,
thy life in my death,
thy joy in my sorrow,
thy grace in my sin,
thy riches in my poverty,
thy glory in my valley.

- From *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*,
Arthur Bennett (Editor)

Today may there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.