

AN ORDER FOR PRAYER

CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER:

O Lord, open my lips.
And I shall declare your praise.

(PSALM 51:15, ALT.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51 – a prayer from scripture

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴ 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.
⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret
heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be
clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your
ways,
and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your
deliverance.
¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would
not be pleased.
¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a
broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will
not despise.
¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt
offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Isaiah 55:1-3

God invites us to pray

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not
satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

Romans 12:1-2

Prayer is for discernment of God's will

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and
sisters, by the mercies of God, to present
your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable to God, which is your spiritual
worship. ² Do not be conformed to this
world, but be transformed by the renewing
of your minds, so that you may discern what
is the will of God—what is good and
acceptable and perfect.

SILENCE

Let our prayers be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our salvation. Amen.

Canticle of God's Glory

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world: Have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A prayer to be said by children, if present...

God, please bless my school. Thank You for all of the teachers that work so hard to help us learn.
Thank You for recess and lunchtime, when we get to play with our friends. Thank You for
providing a place where we can learn more about the world You created for us to live in, and
how it works. Please keep my school safe. Protect all of the grown ups and kids that come to
school everyday. Protect us from harm, and help us to be kind to each other.

God, Thank You for my friend. You tell us that it is not good to be alone, God, and bless us with
family and friends all around us. Thank You for giving us people to talk to and laugh with. I pray

for my friend today, that they have a good day and a blessed life. They are a blessing to me, God, when I need them the most. Just like Jesus is to me. Help me to be kind like Jesus. To be a good friend to others and spread His love. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Listed below under each layer of prayer are suggestions for specific persons or situations to be prayed for, you're invited to add your own.

Together, let us pray

for the people of this congregation...

for direction of the visioning team...

for the lay leadership of both youth and children...

for the many servants who give of their time and talents to assist in making possible children and youth ministries...

for children and youth who are being made into disciples through the ministries of First UMC...

for the preschool and its teachers and students...

for Stephen Ministers

for wisdom for all church officers

for all Sunday School teachers, Life Group facilitators and Bible study leaders

for those who suffer and those in trouble...

for the many homebound members and their caretakers...

for the many who are without a home ...

for the many who seek a place of refuge when their home is no longer a safe place...

for the concerns of this local community...

for those dealing with addiction to drugs...

for those trapped in the life of a gang...

for the mayor, the city council, and for all who positions of power...

for the civil servants of Rocky Mount and surrounding areas...

for all who have not yet experienced or embraced God's love for them, and the opportunities we have to reach out to them.

for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...

for the president, congress, the governor, and our legislature...

for the leaders of North and South Korea...

for nations and states affected by natural disasters such as Puerto Rico ...

for the earth you have given to our care...

for all who work in jobs that care for the earth...

for all who work in jobs that ...

for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission...

for the Commission on a Way Forward...

for the Bishops, especially Hope Morgan Ward, as they seek to guide The United Methodist Church...

for the various Jurisdictions and Conferences, especially the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the North Carolina Conference...

for those prayer requests you have...

for those who are in communion with the saints....

for all those who have died...

for all those who grieve

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Go forth in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
Amen.