

MUMC At-Home Worship:

October 25, 2020

I hope the invitation to center ourselves in gratitude in last week's worship was one that was meaningful and helped you experience thankfulness throughout the week! As we continue today in our theme of generosity, we're turning to the practice of prayer and how it can open us to grow in generosity, living more fully in faith and walking further along the path of discipleship. I encourage you to incorporate prayer into the coming week whether that's seeking the presence of God for a few minutes each morning over coffee, taking a walk each day while praying aloud, or any other prayerful practice. May we be a people of prayer! *-Pastor Dillon*

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God, source of all life and love: draw us close to you this day. Overthrow the former rulers of our hearts that you alone might reign and employ us in the good work of living as your disciples. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, United Methodist Hymnal #139 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1:3-14

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. This passage describes a prayer of thankfulness and encouragement that the authors have been offering for the Colossian people. Who are some that have held you in prayer in your life? Who do you strive to remember in prayer?
2. The author describes a thankfulness that the Colossians have "been bearing fruit" since first hearing about God's grace while still praying that they would continue "producing fruit in every good work." How have you experienced the Christian life as an experience of initial reception of God's grace? How have you experienced the Christian life as a continued growth in faithfulness and fruitfulness?
3. How might you spend this week praying for someone or a group of people to continue holding to God's grace and growing in discipleship? How might you open yourself in prayer this week to see where God might be calling you to grow in fruitfulness?

Hymn: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*, United Methodist Hymnal #402 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Where He Leads Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #338 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, may we go to live generously with all of what we have and all of who we are. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
United Methodist Hymnal #139

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health
and salvation!
All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so
wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle's wings,
e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true
good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here
daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
if with his love he befriends thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish
thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are
ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me
adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly fore'er we adore him

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" words are by Joachim Neander, 1680; stanzas 1, 3, & 5 were translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and are in the public domain; stanza 2 was translated by S. Paul Schilling, 1986, and stanza 4 was translated by Rupert E. Davies, 1983.

Translations of stanzas 2 and 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by Permission. CCLI License #11301689

Colossians 1:3-14 (CEB)

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. We've done this since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all God's people. You have this faith and love because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You previously heard about this hope through the true message, the good news, which has come to you. This message has been bearing fruit and growing among you since the day you heard and truly understood God's grace, in the same way that it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. You learned it from Epaphras, who is the fellow slave we love and Christ's faithful minister for your sake. He informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we haven't stopped praying for you and asking for you to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. We're praying this so that you can live lives that are worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in every way: by producing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; by being strengthened through his glorious might so that you endure everything and have patience; and by giving thanks with joy to the Father. He made it so you could take part in the inheritance, in light granted to God's holy people. He rescued us from the control of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. He set us free through the Son and forgave our sins.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
United Methodist Hymnal #402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" words are from an African American spiritual and are in the public domain.

Where He Leads Me
United Methodist Hymnal #338

1. I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Refrain:

Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

2. I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
(Refrain)
3. I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
(Refrain)
4. He will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.
(Refrain)

"Where He Leads Me" words are by E. W. Blandy, 1890, and is in the public domain.