

My Prayer Journal

Use this weekly prayer to help you begin your time with God each day.

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, we confess that even while You love us, we have not loved You. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, with quarrelling, and with divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to our sins, so that, as You move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to You, and receive mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

My Prayers this Week:

Family Time:

Life can feel incredibly overwhelming at times. Especially when a new routine pops up or some life change happens. That might be what your family is going through now; getting into a rhythm with school, sports, and other activities. When life gets overwhelming we tend to go one way or another. We can miss the grace of God through those moments because we are focused on the other side. But God calls us to lean on Him in those moments and He will fulfill our thirst in Him. We have to remember that God is the only one from whom flows living water that leads us back to Him. Take time this week as a family to refocus on God and all that He has to offer each of you.

MONDAY 9.20.21

Exodus 17:1-7

In Matthew 25:35b, Jesus says “I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” Our topic for week two of our “iCare” sermon series, therefore, is “iQuench.” When we consider just how arid and dry much of the Middle East is today (and was in Jesus’ day), we immediately recognize just how significant a source of water was for the people Jesus knew. Wells ran dry, drought dried up rivers, and thirst was a well-known condition. In today’s reading from Exodus, the Hebrews who have just crossed the Red Sea to emerge from slavery in Egypt are wandering in the wilderness, prior to arriving at Mount Sinai. God has miraculously provided manna and quail to satisfy their hunger, but, as verse 1 notes, “there was no water for the people to drink.” The people were so angry with Moses—with the very man who led them out of slavery—that they were ready to stone him. Life in slavery, in that moment, seemed preferable to dying of thirst. But in spite of their doubt, God led them to a rock from which the waters poured forth, quenching the peoples’ thirst. Even though they questioned God’s providence, God still provided.

- Why is it so easy to doubt God’s providence “in the moment,” even when God has provided for us before?

TUESDAY 9.21.21

Psalms 42

Thirst is often used in Scripture as a metaphor for our deep longing for God. In Psalm 42, the psalmist feels detached, separated from God, and yet his soul “thirsts” for God, just as deer in an arid land pant for streams of water. But have you ever been near a dry desert streambed when suddenly there is a cloudburst, and torrential rain? The dry bed, that holds the hope of quenching thirst when a small stream, becomes a raging torrent capable of sweeping away everything in its path. The same water that brings life can bear the threat of death. “Wadis” like this were commonplace in the ancient Middle East, and this is precisely the metaphor the psalmist employs here. While he longs to drink deeply from the waters of God, his sense of separation from God feels instead like the roar of a waterfall, with relentless waves and breakers that sweep over him, threatening to carry him away. While his emotional turmoil makes his soul feel downcast, he nonetheless knows that his only hope is in God. “I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” Even when the waters of life threaten to engulf us, we can know that God is worthy of our praise, and will offer us the water that quenches our thirst for Him.

- When have you experienced the soul-satisfying living water of Jesus in the midst of the torrent of life’s raging waters?

WEDNESDAY 9.22.21

Isaiah 55:1-3

Think about the paradox in Isaiah’s familiar words: “Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost.” What does it even mean to “buy without money”? And yet Isaiah insists that everyone who is thirsty is invited to come, and “buy” water, wine, and milk that have no cost. The answer to the paradox comes in verse 3—“hear me, that your soul may live.” The promise that gives this kind of life to the soul is this: “I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.” Isaiah is prophesying about Jesus, the bringer of a new and everlasting covenant between God and humanity that would allow the people of God who had wandered far from God’s will to return to Him. Although the people of Israel had broken the covenant with God that they had agreed to under Moses, at Mount Sinai, Isaiah promises that God will offer a new covenant, one that will stand forever, incapable of being broken by humanity. That covenant is the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. The gift has no cost to us—Jesus has paid it for us, and it is freely available to all who are willing to accept that He has done this for us. Just as Jesus told the woman at the well, the water is available to everyone.

- Do you still doubt that “the water is free to all”?

THURSDAY 9.23.21

John 7:37-39

At the Feast of Tabernacles, the Jews in Jesus’ day would remember the wilderness wanderings after the Exodus from Egypt through many ritual actions. One of these involved drawing water from the Pool of Siloam on the last day of the Feast, and pouring it out at the base of the altar at the Temple in remembrance of what we read about on Monday—God’s gift of water in the desert. The action also recalled the prophet Ezekiel’s vision of a river emerging from under the threshold of the Temple, growing and bringing life even to the Dead Sea (see Ezekiel 47). In the midst of this symbolic action at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stands up and proclaims, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” The analogy Jesus was drawing was clear—He IS the river of life the prophets had foreseen. And just as He told the woman at the well, when we drink of this water, rivers of life emerge from us as well, as through the Holy Spirit we bring both the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to others, and as we bring literal water to those in the world who are thirsty and need a drink just to survive.

- Do you have a sense of “living water flowing from within you”? How is that water quenching the thirst of others?

FRIDAY 9.24.21

2 Peter 2:1-3; 17-22

How can there be a spring without water? Perhaps one of the cruelest experiences in the ancient world would be to be drawn to the promise of what appeared to be a spring of fresh, running water, only to find that the spring was dry. In chapter two of 2Peter, Peter draws exactly this analogy to false teachers. Like a mirage, these teachings draw us toward the promise of quenching our thirst, but when we get close, we realize there is nothing really there. Peter writes that while the teachings of these false prophets are attractive, that is only because they are appealing to our fallen human nature. People may flock to them, but what they will find is not the life-giving water of Jesus, but more of the soul-crushing emptiness of the world. Peter refers to the despair that these empty promises inevitably lead to as “blackest darkness.” Sadly, many Christians Peter knew were being drawn away from the Living Water, and once again becoming entangled in the corruption of the world. And sadly, the same can be said of many Christians today. Peter’s words might be frightening—suggesting that those who once embraced but later rejected the Gospel are more accountable than those who never have. But his goal is to encourage us to cling to Jesus, the spring of Living Water.

- When have you been tempted by false teaching?

SATURDAY 9.25.21

Revelation 7:9-17

Revelation’s vision of the perfection of the world that accompanies the Second Coming of Jesus is drawn in terms that anyone, not only people living in a dry and arid land, can relate to. Those who have allowed Jesus to cleanse them of their sin, and who therefore enter into eternal life, live a kind of life that is unrecognizable by earthly standards. No more hunger. No more thirst. No more scorching heat. No more tears. And in the midst of it all, a benevolent King, a Lamb on a throne, who leads His people eternally to springs of living water. From the beginnings of the Scriptural narrative to the very end, the metaphor of salvation that is frequently employed is the image of the quenching of our deepest thirst. When Jesus says, in Matthew 25, that whenever we give a thirsty person a drink, we give it to Him also, He is almost certainly speaking about helping those who have no access to water. But given the prevalence of the imagery in Scripture, we should recognize that we are also called to invite others to partake of Jesus’ life-giving water. It is not one or the other—Jesus asks us to make sure the thirst of the thirsty is quenched, both physically and spiritually.

- What did it mean to you that in the Bible’s picture of heaven, there are “springs of living water”?



Daily Study Guide

September 19-25, 2021

Sermon Series: iCare

Week Two: “iQuench” - Rev. Gregory P. Finrock

Scripture for Sunday, September 19: John 4:4-15

“Jesus had to go through Samaria. He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from His journey, so He sat down at the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me some water to drink.’ His disciples had gone into the city to buy Him some food. The Samaritan woman asked, ‘Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.) Jesus responded, ‘If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, “Give me some water to drink,” you would be asking Him and He would give you living water.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.’ Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!’” (CEB)

Things that really impacted me from today’s sermon:

Prayer Requests

Nadine Mordt
 Bill Tumbrink
 Pat Smith
 Jerry Primm
 Ruck Family
 Fowler Family
 Young Family
 Alyssa Kellhofer
 Beverly McIntosh
 Mitch Mitchell
 Karen Patton
 Josh Luter
 Charlotte Ottley
 Delaney Digman
 Bill Reichter
 Bob Vincent
 Sophia Miller
 Judy Hoffman
 Nini Schneider
 Larry & Kathy

The Sutcliffe family and friends on the loss of Grenville "Grenny" Sutcliffe II

The Schleg and Bardon families on the loss of Darwin Schleg

The Porter family and friends on the loss of Patty Porter

The Malloy family and friends on the loss of Clella Malloy

The Hughes family on the loss of Liz Hughes’ father, Walter Hubler

Share prayer requests online at livingwordumc.org