

## **Prayer Calendar**

### **October 2021**

#### **Bible Reading Plan**

The Letters of Paul hold instruction, encouragement, hope and pastoral care for the disciples of Jesus. October brings us to the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> chapters of Ephesians, into Philippians, to Colossians and concluding the month with the two letters to Timothy.

#### **Friday, October 1**

*Ephesians 3:14-15 | For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.*

~ Holy God, your servant Paul helps us understand there is no separation of peoples; we are all your children. No one is outside your love. Every family: even those who do not know you are yours. Open my heart to all your family.

#### **Saturday, October 2**

*Rest | Find peace in the day and enjoy the ordinary, everyday movements of your day and give thanks.*

#### **Sunday, October 3**

*Reflect | Look back on the readings from last week and consider what God is saying to you through these texts today. Will you listen?*

#### **Monday, October 4**

*Ephesians 4:1-6 | I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

~ Loving God, we know what we are called to do and who we are called to be. Humble, gentle, patient, loving, living in unity and peace – one body and one Spirit. We are not separate in our boxes but are one together in God. Help us to live like one who knows this and not one who is separate from you. Set our minds on being a part of this kin-dom.

#### **Tuesday, October 5**

*Ephesians 5:18b-20 | ...but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

~ Lord Jesus, bring a song of praise and thanksgiving to my lips today. No matter how my voice sounds to me, put a song in my heart and fill me with joy as I sing your praises, bring gratitude to my spirit and peace to my soul.

#### **Wednesday, October 6**

*Ephesians 6:18 | Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.*

~ Holy Spirit, sometimes we do not stop our busyness to listen to you and respond as you lead us to pray. You nudge us to pray and we are not aware. Keep us aware of your leading us always and keep us mindful to pray through your strength and your guidance so we may be in one accord and in harmony with you. *I'm Goin'a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing*, UMH 333, [I'm Goin'a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing](#)

#### **Thursday, October 7**

*Philippians 1:6 | I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

~ Holy Spirit, Paul is confident we will grow in love, in knowledge and insight as we produce a harvest of goodness and peace in our relationships and with the world. May it be so. Strengthen and renew us that we may participate with you in this good work and be faithful to our calling as disciples.

#### **Friday, October 8**

*Philippians 2:3-5 | Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*

~ Transforming God, it is hard sometimes to set aside our own agendas and our own selfishness to look toward the interests of others. We can be stubborn and self-serving. Give us the courage to step out of our own constructions and into a world of gratitude and giving to others.

#### **Saturday, October 9**

*Rest | Find peace in the day and enjoy the ordinary, everyday movements of your day and give thanks.*

#### **Sunday, October 10**

*Reflect | Look back on the readings from last week and consider what God is saying to you through these texts today. Will you listen?*

#### **Monday, October 11**

*Philippians 3:20 | But our citizenship is in heaven and is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

~ God of Grace, it is easy to forget where our true citizenship lies, not in this country, but we as Christians are citizens in the kin-dom of God. It is complicated, Lord, for your kingdom has no borders and does not depend upon human government or national identity – but identity in Christ. Help us to remember our true home is in your realm and we are only visitors here.

#### **Tuesday, October 12**

*Philippians 4:4-7 | Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

~ Loving God, these instructions are simple and true – rejoice, practice gentleness, know God is present, do not worry, pray, offer gratitude, and receive peace – true peace of Christ. So simple

yet challenging to us in our challenges and anxieties of the day. Thank you for these words to encourage and sustain our journey of faith. *Again Say Rejoice, arranged by Israel Houghton; [Again I Say Rejoice](#)*

### **Wednesday, October 13**

*Colossians 1:11-12 | May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.*  
~ Gracious God, we receive this blessing from Paul as a member of Christ's holy church. Give us what we need to live out this blessing and in turn bless others as we have been blessed.

### **Thursday, October 14**

*Colossians 2:6-7 | As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*  
~ Lord, Paul speaks of being rooted in your life. I imagine when I am rooted I can grow receiving all the love, grace, forgiveness and peace I need to grow in faith. Draw me nearer and nearer, deeper, and deeper into your heart so that I may live my life fully and abundantly in Christ Jesus.

### **Friday, October 15**

*Colossians 3:11 | In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free: but Christ is all and in all.*  
~ Gracious Creator, through Christ we are one with each other and one with you. There are no divisions in your eyes; there are no separations in your heart; there are no hierarchies of who is better than whom in your mind. Help us see, feel, and understand this, also. You call us to oneness; help us respond in love.

### **Saturday, October 16**

*Rest | | Find peace in the day and enjoy the ordinary, everyday movements of your day and give thanks.*

### **Sunday, October 17**

*Reflect | Look back on the readings from last week and consider what God is saying to you through these texts today. Will you listen?*

### **Monday, October 18**

*Colossians 4:2 | Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.*  
~ Holy God, scripture says to devote oneself to prayer, keeping alert in prayer and pray with thanksgiving. Help us be more devoted and pay attention to how, when and in what ways to pray. Help us be mindful to always pray with thanksgiving, no matter the circumstances that surround us for sometimes we forget that gratitude is in itself a prayer.

### **Tuesday, October 19**

*1 Timothy 1:17 | To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

~ Jesus, sometimes we forget you are the King of our lives, of our hearts. We take you for granted and forget your majesty and glory. Today, in humility I will reflect on your power, majesty, and character. UMH 103, *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*, [Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise](#)

### **Wednesday, October 20**

*1 Timothy 2:1 | First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.*

~ God of Grace, it is not easy to pray in this way for everyone. Part of us wants to make judgements and decide who is worthy enough for our prayers. But your scriptures call us to pray for everyone – even those we do not like, or trust or of whom we are afraid. Keep us alert and mindful of this admonition to pray for everyone.

### **Thursday, October 21**

*1 Timothy 3:15 | ...if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.*

~ Lord Jesus, you sent Paul to teach us more of what it means to be your follower; we have his teachings and yet at times we don't act like the church of the living God, we act like we have never heard of you or your love. What is wrong with us? Why do we go back to our old selfish behaviors? Forgive us and help us get up and try again. Today I confess: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Friday, October 22**

*1 Timothy 4:7b | Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

~ Loving Jesus, how do I train myself in godliness? Guide me, one step at a time to be more faithful and loving, more open and caring to others, more like you, Jesus. Today I will be alert to: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Saturday, October 23**

*Rest | Find peace in the day and enjoy the ordinary, everyday movements of your day and give thanks.*

### **Sunday, October 24**

*Reflect | Look back on the readings from last week and consider what God is saying to you through these texts today. Will you listen?*

### **Monday, October 25**

*1 Timothy 5:25 | So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden.*

~ God of Creation, show me the hidden good works in this perverse world. Sometimes all I see is brokenness, hatred, divisiveness, lack of compassion and no justice. Give me eyes to see through the cracks of brokenness to see the hidden works of goodness that are there – help me join others in these good works. Today open my eyes to small acts of mercy all around me.

**Tuesday, October 26**

*1 Timothy 6:11 | But as for you, \_\_\_\_\_, shun all this: pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.*

~ Lord, I place my name in this text and allow it to become a letter to me personally. Keep me focused upon you and your calling in my life. Show me the better way to live as the child of God you desire.

**Wednesday, October 27**

*2 Timothy 1:9b | (God) who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.*

~ Merciful God, you are saving us and are calling us to live according to your purpose which is love and your grace which abounds. We are a work in progress – like clay being shaped and formed more and more into your image. Give me the peace that reflects your love and grace.

**Thursday, October 28**

*2 Timothy 2:23 | Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.*

~ God of Love, how we love to argue over stupid things we believe are important – like politics and who did what to whom and why. There is no end to the disharmony we can create and the divisions we make in our own families and communities because we are stubborn and do not want to lose a point. Help us set aside these silly things and set our eyes and hearts on your compassion, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Help us be humble and see people as your children and not tools to be used or things to be worthless.

**Friday, October 29**

*2 Timothy 3:16 | All scripture is inspired by God is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*

~ Generous God, encourage me to sit quietly and listen to your voice in scripture. Help me set aside my own bias and truly listen to these inspired words that at times are confusing and call me to change my ways – I don't want to change. I like the way I am, yet you call me to something greater than myself – you call me to your heart, to abide in you, to allow you to live in me. Open my stubborn mind and heart to receive what goodness you have waiting for me. What good work do you have for me this week?

**Saturday, October 30**

*Rest | Find peace in the day and enjoy the ordinary and everyday movements of your day and give thanks.*

**Sunday, October 31**

*Reflect | Look back on the readings from last week and consider what God is saying to you through these texts today. Will you listen?*

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All scriptures are taken from, NRSV

**Read the scripture** for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an “ear of the heart” to a word or phrase that strikes you.

**Reflect on that word or phrase** asking yourself the question: “What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?” Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

**Allow God to speak to you in the silence.** Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

**Thank God** for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.

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