

*Laity Sunday - 2013*

# *Let us Pray*

January

2013



It was only one year ago that Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges and I, together, were reviewing the final edited copy of the 2012 Laity curriculum. We both had special sentiments for the 2012 theme song for the curriculum "Blessed Assurance." We sang together, the refrain: "This is my story, this is my song; praising my Savior all the day long." We shared the fond memory of hearing it sung at home as we were growing up, and reflecting on how encouraging it was to hear.

For me, I remember my mother's sweet melodic expression of "Blessed Assurance" as she incorporated it in to her repertoire of songs. It took me more than a decade to realize that, even with a house full of children and chores to complete, she could, through song, establish her "virtual" closet to communicate with God.

For me, sharing this memory is an important segway

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to the new 2013 Laity Curriculum which focuses on prayer, and its many types. In this curriculum we will address prayers of adoration and thanksgiving, but we will not skip over prayers of lamentation and petition.

Because time is fleeting and a year seems like only yesterday, when Rev. Dr. Bridges was, herself, reviewing the curriculum, we would like to make a special dedication to her unfailing commitment to Christian education. We also want to remember and pray for the young lives and lives of educators lost in the past few months. We encourage the use of this curriculum, not only for Laity Sunday, but as a resource for all prayers in the New Year: Prayers of adoration, lamentation, petition, peace, joy and thanksgiving. Also, look for new prayer music in this new curriculum.

*All glory and honor to a most amazing God,*  
Lonnie Graves  
Laity Curriculum developer, 2013

## *Laity Overview*

In some ways, the first month of our calendar year is a reminder of the first century church. When Christ ascended (after he was crucified), leaving the apostles “looking-up,” it is likely they were waiting for something else to happen. Well, it did, but it may not have been what they expected. Two men appeared in white and let them know that Jesus would be returning at a later time. They went back to where they were staying in Jerusalem. Others were waiting, wondering what to do, since their savior had been crucified. **The New Century Version** of the Bible puts it this way, beginning in **Acts 1:12**.

*Then they went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. (This mountain is about half a mile from Jerusalem.)<sup>13</sup> When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon (known as the Zealot), and Judas son of James were there.<sup>14</sup> They all continued praying together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers.<sup>15</sup> **During this time there was a meeting of the believers** (about one hundred twenty of them).*

There was a meeting of believers, and they



were praying together. One might consider them the first laity of the first church after Christ's crucifixion. The Merriam-Webster dictionary gives this definition of **Laity: The people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy**. This definition very-much sounds like members of a congregation.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has designated one Sunday, usually in January, as Laity Sunday, as a reminder that people, beyond clergy, also have gifts to offer in the work of the church. When identifying a person to organize and direct the Lay Sunday events, it could most likely, but not necessarily, be a person who may have already participated in leading worship in your congregation. It may also be a person who has participated in other active roles in the church.

Use Appendix chart A on page 6 as a worksheet to help identify lay members of your congregation to help create a worshipful experience that will acknowledge the love of God and the gift of Jesus Christ.

## Living What We Believe

The Laity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are always involved in the functions of the church. From teaching Sunday school to preparing a fellowship gathering, the laity of the church participates. Laity Sunday, however, is a time when the lay people of the church pause to consider their gifts and are intentional in offering these gifts in worship and in other ways.

As Disciples of Christ, we proclaim that we are followers of the examples and instructions that Christ has given us. We can each, regardless of age, make our own unique contributions to proclaim our positions as Christ's followers on Laity Sunday and every day.

On occasion you may hear the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) referred to as "**The Priesthood of all Believers.**" This is a phrase that is not likely to be found in the standard dictionary, but it is important to understand how it relates to being Disciple and a lay person. Consider this passage from **1 Peter 2:9-10**:

*But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.<sup>10</sup> At one time you were not a people, but now you are God's people. In the past you had never received mercy, but now you have received God's mercy.*

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

So, how can **The Priesthood of All Believers** be defined simply? Effectively, each person, who

understands that God is the source of all things and that through Christ; we have a direct connection to God. It is then, each person's **individual** responsibility to read and study the Bible, asking for God's wisdom in understanding as the stories, instruction and examples unfold for each person's understanding. It is the follower's responsibility to identify the gifts given to them by God as they work to glorify God in all they do.

Though we often lean on our Pastor (Shepherd) to be our spiritual leader, as the priesthood of all believers (**1 Peter 2:9-10**), we too can work together and take time to prepare for and to worship God on Laity Sunday.

Each person's personal spiritual growth can be enhanced through group study, community worship and praise and other ways of service as Christ demonstrated in His love of all people as an example for us to follow. It is important to understand that all have been given gifts that, together, are to be used in our effort to glorify God in all things.



# Worship Instructions

## Worship not Entertainment

Though we can “enjoy” a sermon, skit or choir presentation, it is important to let volunteers know that worship is not just a production for the “audience,” but worship is a time to express our adoration and commitment to God and to let God know our love. Worship is a time to give glory and honor to God. It is a time to acknowledge God in our lives. It is also a time to recognize the gifts and blessings God has given to us. Worship is a time to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and to understand the incredible gift God gave us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. There are many places in the Bible that show expressions of worship.

After you have identified individuals who are willing to participate in Laity Sunday activities, send to each person, an email or postal mailed letter confirmation of their commitment and the date of the first planning meeting a few weeks prior to Laity Sunday. It can be simple and might begin this way:

*“Thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this year’s Laity Sunday activities. This congregation has long appreciated the efforts of its participants and worship leaders, bringing a variety of gifts and styles to our times of worship. May God bless you as you share your gifts with us, and to Glorify God! The first meeting of the planning team will be on \_\_\_ at \_\_\_ o’clock”*

The chair of this committee or planning team or worship leader for this event has two important tasks, and they are to:



1. Create a timeline that includes all that it takes to plan the Laity worship service using this resource and adjusting it to the needs and personality of your congregation.
2. Lead the worship service.

**Take time before all activities to begin with prayer. If there is to be a leadership team, invite everyone to stop for a brief time to come together and pray, asking that God directs the activities of the day. All participants are worship coaches, who are commissioned to encourage the congregation to praise and to honor God. The purpose of worship is not to be entertained, it is to please God.**

Give the planning team plenty of time to study the theme, scriptures and resources. Name the participants and prepare for the event. Consider involving the young, the youth and the older members of your congregation.

On the following pages you will find selected prayers from the Bible. An effort was made to choose prayers that are lesser-known, however, each prayer includes

important information or instruction to the followers of Jesus Christ. **Remember, you may always select another prayer that is not one of those listed.**

At the first meeting of the Laity Sunday committee, examine all of the prayers and select one that speaks to the hearts of the group members. You may also choose to speak on more than one, addressing how much is yet to be learned from the written word. Once you select the passage, you will be able to complete the message topic for your Laity Sunday service.

As you will find in these resources, a prepared service of worship, is designed as a beginning and option. You may extract segments to include in worship services you have prepared, or add to what is written, according to your needs. Remember, this is worship, and it is your time to express your love to God.

*Note: On Laity Sunday the message can be delivered in many ways. The message can be delivered by one person or can be broken into segments where two or more can participate.*

Always encourage time for prayer and discernment that God will direct the design and content of the message.

On Laity Sunday, if there are visitors and if the worship service has unusual aspects that might confuse visitors, please be sensitive to the possibility of their misunderstanding and offer an explanation at the

beginning of the service. You might say something similar to this:

*"Today's service is a bit different from our usual services in that..."*

In an effort to separate the announcements from focused times of prayer and the sharing of the message, it is encouraged that announcements are made at a pre-determined time that is separate from prayerful moments. This might be done very early in the service or just before prayers of the people. You will **not** find "announcements" in the **Order of Worship** so each congregation can determine where their announcements will fit best, based on the needs and traditions of the church. You will want to keep the announcements short.

The "Sermon/Message" that is offered in the worship template is intentionally incomplete near the end. This is designed to give all presenters an opportunity to share their perspective, include personal stories and prayerfully draw their own conclusions.

Consult with the pastor, elders or others "of good spirit" in the congregation if additional help is needed. Test your conclusions against The Word, which is our denominational design as Disciples of Christ.

## Appendix A

Participant's Ministry	Name / Phone	Commitment Yes / No	Will be attending <sup>1st</sup> meeting
<b>General Planning</b>			
Event Coordinator/Director			
Prayer/Spiritual Leader			
Adult Study Coordinator			
Youth Study Coordinator			
Children's Study Coordinator			
<b>Worship Volunteers</b>			
Director of Music			
Call to Worship			
Opening Litany			
Scripture Reader #1			
Time for Children			
Scripture Reader #2			
Prayers for the People			
The Sermon/Message Facilitator List additional participants:			
Offering			
Call to Discipleship			
Communion Meditation First Reader Second Reader Third Reader			
Benediction			

## Select: Prayer Study Library

*The questions in this section are designed, first for personal reflection, and also as a conversation starting-point for the planning team to discuss each type of prayer as they are making choices for the Laity Sunday worship. Be prayerful in your selection approach. You might consider dividing into groups, having two or three people work through a prayer type and its questions and then each group report back to the team their findings, thoughts, suggestions and conclusions. This might offer a richer bank of information from which to make choices. If you have a large youth group, their input may be valuable in making selections.*

*The learning possibilities will be enriched if the prayer study is also used as Sunday school or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected prayer types, consider how they might have an impact on our lives today.*

### 1. Praise and Adoration

When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, he first taught them the respect and admiration we should have for God, and how we share our respect and admiration, beginning with the name of God and the acknowledgement of God's kingdom. Kingdom is not a word we use in our everyday conversations, but God's kingdom is greater than all the nations put together. God's kingdom



must be an amazing place, greater than any place we know today. Just as it was when we were children, we relied on a parent or care-giver to care for us, knowing that we needed the resources they provided us in order to survive. We should come to God in the same way; as children. Jesus taught his disciples this way:

<sup>9</sup>So when you pray, you should pray like this:  
'Our Father in heaven,  
may your name always be kept holy.  
<sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come  
and what you want be done,  
here on earth as it is in heaven.

**Matthew 6:9-10**

New Century Version (NCV)

This instruction also aligns with the first of the Ten Commandments which says: "You shall have no other gods before me" (**Exodus 20:3**). There are other examples of praise and adoration in the Bible, since, from the beginning, people were aware of the power and glory of God.

The examples below, you can find in the Psalms:

**A song. A psalm of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> God, my heart is steady.  
I will sing and praise you with all my being.  
<sup>2</sup> Wake up, harp and lyre!  
I will wake up the dawn.  
<sup>3</sup> LORD, I will praise you among the nations;  
I will sing songs of praise about you to all the nations.  
<sup>4</sup> Your great love reaches to the skies,  
your truth to the heavens.  
<sup>5</sup> God, you are supreme above the skies.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

**Psalm 108**  
New Century Version (NCV)

**The One True God**

- <sup>1</sup> It does not belong to us, LORD.  
The glory belongs to you  
because of your love and loyalty.

**Psalm 115**  
New Century Version (NCV)



**A psalm of praise. Of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> I praise your greatness, my God the King;  
I will praise you forever and ever.  
<sup>2</sup> I will praise you every day;  
I will praise you forever and ever.  
<sup>3</sup> The Lord is great and worthy of our praise;  
no one can understand how great he is.

**Psalm 145**  
New Century Version (NCV)

**Questions and Reflections: Prayers of Praise and Adoration**

**Remember:** The questions and resources will also be helpful if prayers Praise and Adoration are selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected stories, consider how they might have implication on our lives today.

1. What does respect and admiration mean to you? Can you identify one, or more people you admire and/or respect? Why do you respect them? How do you show your respect to those individuals?
2. The Kingdom of God is a mighty, mighty nation. Acknowledging a kingdom larger than anything we know today; one with perfect order is difficult to grasp when we see segments of disorder all around us. In groups, or individually, write down three things that would demonstrate order in a culture. Compare with others and make a consolidated list.
3. Try and put the segment of The Lord's Prayer, which is referenced above, in words we use today. Work in groups and use a dictionary and thesaurus if that helps.
4. There are three psalms listed on page 7. How are they the same and how are they different? List the similarities and differences.

**Video Options for Prayers of Praise and Adoration**

- **Power in Prayer and Praise – dmbarry777**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMhdd2M710A>
- **David Bratton & Spirit of Praise - Jesus, You're All I Need**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdrL8UxocvI>
- **Nous adorons Adonai - 777 - Innonde-moi.wmv**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9ml8aCuiQA>

## 2. Prayers of Confessions and Lamentation

**And in the Lord's prayer it is written:**

*And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.*

**Matthew 6:9-10  
New Century Version (NCV)**

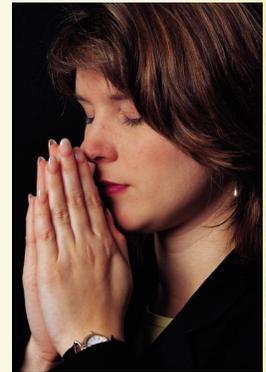
In our humanness we can be blinded by flattery and are sometimes challenged to accept that we do, in fact, get angry, speak of vengeful wishes and hold onto grudges and hate. It may be a most difficult part of prayer, to ask for forgiveness and acknowledge we have sinful temptations, as it encourages that we must be honest with our own selves about our own faults. How can we ask forgiveness if we do not believe our own sins dishonor God?

Matthew Henry's Commentary offers perspective and insight to help with the understanding of these passages. He addresses the Lord's Prayer and the challenge of these prayerful requests to forgive those who have sinned against us and to be delivered from evil and our own sins. In his analysis the following is offered for further understanding:

- "That we have no reason to expect, nor can with any confidence pray, that God would forgive our sins against him, if we do not *sincerely*, and from a truly Christian principle of

*charity*, forgive those that have at any time affronted us or been injurious to us. Though the *words of our mouth* be even *this* prayer to God, if the meditation of our heart at the same time be, as often it is, malice and revenge to our brethren, we are not accepted, nor can we expect an answer of peace.

- "That temptations to sin should be as much dreaded and deprecated by us as ruin by sin; and it should be as much our care and prayer to get the power of sin broken in us as to get the guilt of sin removed from us; and though temptation may be a charming, fawning, flattering thing, we must be as earnest with God that we may not be led into it as that we may not be led by that to sin, and by sin to ruin.



- "That God is to be depended upon, and sought unto, for our deliverance *from all evil*; and we should pray, not only that we may not be left to ourselves to run into evil, but that we may not be left to Satan to bring evil upon us. Dr. Lightfoot understands it of being delivered *from the evil one*, that is, the devil, and suggests that we should pray particularly against the apparitions of the devil and his possessions. The disciples were employed to *cast out devils*, and therefore were concerned to pray that they might be guarded against the particular spite he would always be sure to have against them."

**Even Jesus was tempted.**

It is written in **Matthew 4:1-11:**

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> Jesus fasted for forty days and nights. After this, he was very hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil came to Jesus to tempt him, saying, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person lives not on bread alone, but by everything God says.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place of the Temple. <sup>6</sup> The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, jump down, because it is written in the Scriptures: 'He has put his angels in charge of you. They will catch you in their hands so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" (**Psalm 91:11-12**)

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It also says in the Scriptures, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

<sup>8</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendor. <sup>9</sup> The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."



<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to the devil, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

<sup>11</sup> So the devil left Jesus, and angels came and took care of him.

The following are confessions from the Psalms that were recorded even before Christ gave the instructions on prayer to his disciples. Even at that time, it was understood that bad actions have consequences. There were many times it could actually mean death.

*Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. (**Psalm 40:11-12**)*

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Fulfill your promise to your servant so that you may be [reverenced]. (**Psalm 119:36-37**)*

**Questions and Reflections: Prayers of Confession and Lamentations**

**Remember:** The questions and resources will also be helpful if prayers of Confession and Lamentation are selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected stories, consider how they might have implication on our lives today.

1. Discuss how easy it is to see the faults of another person. You might do this as a group and record your thoughts and reflections. Share and compare with the thoughts and reflections of other groups.

2. The three paragraphs from Matthew Henry's Commentary, have many complex ideas. Read each paragraph and see if you can identify the main points in each one.
3. Sometimes, in church, it is easier to talk about the good things, but Jesus taught his disciples to ask to be delivered from something. Read the segment of The Lord's Prayer listed on page 9 and read again the third paragraph of the commentary also listed on page 9. From what did Jesus instruct to ask for deliverance from, and how is it addressed in the commentary?
4. Is it difficult to talk about evil from a biblical perspective? Why/Why not? Think of a movie, TV program or video game where you can identify evil. How is it portrayed in the various media today? Compare your finds and discoveries with other individuals or groups.

### 3. *Prayers of Petition/ Protection/and for Peace*

*In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. (Psalm 31:1-5)*

*How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me. (Psalm 13)*



#### **Hope and Trust**

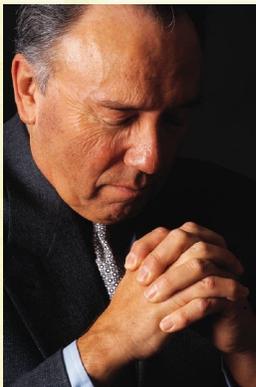
*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways O LORD, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love; for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. (Psalm 25:1-7)*

**A prayer on D-day, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944**

*(See YouTube video options on page 13)*

*My Fellow Americans:*

*Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far. And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in*



*prayer:*

*Almighty God:*

*Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.*

*Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.*

*They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.*

*They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest -- until the victory is won. The darkness*

*will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war. For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home. Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.*

*And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.*

*Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.*

*Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces. And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.*

*And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of*



*but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.*

*With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.*

*Thy will be done, Almighty God.*

*Amen.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt - June 6, 1944*

**A Call for prayer on the day of the Connecticut shooting, from President Barack Obama**

*(text and video options in the video resource box on this page)*

**Questions and Reflections: Prayers of Petition/Protection/and for Peace:**

*Remember: The questions and resources will also be helpful if prayers of Petition, Protection and Peace are selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected stories, consider how they might have implication on our lives today.*

1. In the Psalms on page 11, what are the petitions and protections asked for in the prayers from the Psalms?
2. In Roosevelt's prayer, he makes many petitions and also asks for protection. Make a list of the petitions, protections and prayer-types incorporated in this one prayer.
3. How are the request of the Psalms and the request of Roosevelt the same, and how are they different?
4. Create a prayer of petition and protection for the concerns of today (if possible, work in groups, sharing and gathering your suggestions). Consider the same questions above for the prayerful address by President Barack Obama to the families during his address to the people after the tragic shooting of children in Connecticut.

### **Video Options for Prayers of Petition, Protection and Peace**

*(The two videos below can be used concurrently with the Franklin D. Roosevelt or President Obama prayerful addresses. It can also be a resource to compare the similarities and differences and have conversations on what disciples in your community can do to make a difference)*

- **D-day Prayer** YouTube – Roosevelt: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-weBUzQleo>
- **Prayers for Children and Families in Connecticut** YouTube – Obama: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfaYUrqcCrY&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfaYUrqcCrY&feature=player_embedded)

#### 4. Prayers of Intercession

Sometimes we feel so needy when we come to God that we petition with a laundry list of personal helps and things, some tangible and some that are not. We might ask for things like more money, a job, someone to love, a child, a new car, friends and parking spaces. Sometimes our prayers for our own comforts and needs cause us to forget to glorify, acknowledge and respect God in our prayers. This can also cause us to forget to be intercessors, offering prayers of support, encouragement and hope for others. Even without a current crisis, our prayers for others will also be heard by God and can make a difference in their lives.

We must never forget that when we are overwhelmed and find it difficult to pray, and even if we forget, we always have an intercessor with us. Our constant intercessor is the Holy Spirit, The Comforter, who is within us, and who will pray on our behalf when we only have sighs.

Though there are many biblical examples, we will again look at the prayer of Franklin D. Roosevelt written on page 12.

#### Questions and Reflections: Prayers of Intercession:

**Remember: The questions and resources will also be helpful if prayers of Intercession are selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected stories, consider how they might have implication on our lives today.**

1. Using Roosevelt's prayer, you will see that he is offering prayer on behalf of many different groups. How many groups can you identify for whom he is praying?
2. Roosevelt asked for at least ten things in his prayer. Can you identify those things? Make a list as you may find more than ten.
3. Roosevelt invited others to pray with him. Whom did he ask, what did he ask them to pray for and what type of prayer was he asking for?
4. In your church, community, state or nation, what areas of concern might you, and others, offer intercessory prayer?

#### Video Options for Intercessory Prayer

- **Prayer For A Friend by Casting Crowns**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYZ5z5qhKJI>
- **Military Tribute with music by Casting Crowns: US Military - Praise you in the Storm** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuxpUoCscg4>

#### 5. Thanksgiving

##### Prayer Segment from Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Prayer and Petition for Prayers of Thanksgiving

*No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that*

they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and bless-



ings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed,

Done at the city of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence.

## Questions and Reflections: Prayers of Thanksgiving

**Remember: The questions and resources will also be helpful if prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving are selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected stories, consider how they might have implication on our lives today.**

### Reflections

1. In Abraham Lincoln's prayer beginning on page 14, there is demonstrated respect for God and acknowledgement of his power, confession, lamentations, prayers for healing and peace, intercessory prayer and invitation to prayer. Identify expressions of each one of these categories and make a list, identifying each prayer type.

### Video Options for Prayers of Thanksgiving

- **The Maranatha! Singers - Give Thanks**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXtWf3fZRw>

## Worship Service

### Call to Worship

Today, we gather to praise, worship and glorify God! We acknowledge God's presence as the Holy Spirit fills this place. We gather in this community, sharing the common thread of disciples, who are followers of Jesus Christ. Your gift to us and our Savior. Open our ears that we may receive the word and truth. Open our eyes that we may see you, in the eyes of those who love you; and open our mouths that we have no fear in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We come today to worship, sing and pray. Please, teach us to pray.

### Hymn

(see appendix – Music Library beginning on page 24 for all verses and internet connection for the melody. Also find other hymn choices if you would prefer.)

#### **Sweet Hour of Prayer** Chalice Hymnal page 570

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Savior shows his face,

and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face,  
believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

### Litany

Leader: Even for this hour, we leave behind the world of care and we come to this place to praise and pray.

**People: Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,**

Leader: We bring our distress and grief, and the wishes of our hearts.

**People: Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,**

Leader: And by grace You bless our souls while we are still searching for words.

**People: Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,**

Leader: You listen, even for the unspoken prayers of our hearts.

**People: Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,**

Leader: We know you understand our sorrow and our joy.

**All: Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer.  
We are ready to learn. We are ready to listen.  
Lord, teach us to pray.**

### Reader:

It was only recently, in this year 2012 that a little girl, only five years old, expressed to her mother

that she wanted to serve during worship. She wanted to help collect offerings that were given at church. She wanted to help offer the feast of communion to those people who love Jesus. She was not hindered by the church, but became a protégé (pupil) of her mother, who is on the deaconate. When the other children would leave the sanctuary for the children's' classroom, she remained. Like a front-shadow, standing close to her mother, she would pass the plate and smile as it was received at each pew she served. She would then, sit, listen, and wait with extraordinary patience for a five-year-old, until it was again time to serve. And then, as each individual came before the elements, and her mom leaned forward and held the loaf a little lower, before her child, it was the child, who looked up into the eyes of each person and in the purest way, offered them a blessing by reminding them that this bread represented the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ. When her mother was later asked what prompted her child's joy and patience in this type of service, she shared that her five year old suddenly came to her with a serious urgency to offer her own gifts of service, wanting to serve as Jesus has taught us all. Even at five, she understands that this is good and has made her own commitment to follow.

<sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

**Matthew 19:14**  
(New International Version)

*Invitation: Would the children please come forward and join us during this time for children.*

### Time for Children

(optional if this is normal for your church, or if this will be a teaching and participation opportunity for children not normally involved in the regular service)

You might prepare for this segment of the service by teaching the children (ahead of time), the song: "**Lord I want to be a Christian**". This African-American spiritual is a basic prayer to God. It begins with "Lord I want...". And continues with "to be a Christian; be more loving; be like Jesus". The words printed in the bulletin will allow the congregation to join in singing the prayer.

### "Lord I want to be a Christian"

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, in my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart,

The following questions are conversation starters during the children's time. Use all of the questions, or select the one(s) that will speak to the children in your church community. You will also find the YouTube video resources on page 31 that you can use before, during or after the children's time if your church has the appropriate media resources. Please preview and select those that will blend with your worship style.

### Starter Questions:

- Why do you think the children wanted to see Jesus?
- Do you know that Jesus wanted the children to come to him and hear what he had to say?
- Did you know the Bible has stories of times that

young people served God?

(consider telling one of the familiar Bible stories such as Joseph (coat of many colors), or Samuel (who thought Eli was speaking to him when it was the voice of God), or another.

### **Talking Points:**

- Talk about the prayerful words to the song “**Lord I want to Be a Christian**” and what they mean to the children. If you have media options, consider using one of the given URL’s as a video resource and then to launch conversation with the children.

#### **One suggested YouTube video option:**

- Multicultural Community of Children sing: “Lord I Want to Be a Christian”  
Children/Youth <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osQhtkIDERM>

*End the children’s time with a prayer (you may even ask if one of the children would like to offer the closing prayer) and sing again a verse from the song listed above (or as many verses as you would like). You might ask the congregation to join you. Excuse the children after the time is over.*

### **Prayers of the People**

Most gracious God, we praise Your name, and know that because you love us in ways we cannot understand, we gratefully receive your grace, for we know we are not worthy. Through your gift of love through Jesus Christ, we have hope, and a direct channel to your loving kindness. Jesus instructed us to use the power of His name in our petitions to you and for this, and so much

more, we love you. Dear God, hear our prayers.

Help us to be mindful that Jesus came into an imperfect world to show us the way, and to help us find hope and to let us know of a most powerful love. Even then, as it is today, there were wars and troubles in the world and a continuous petition for peace.

In our petition this day, we ask that you hold us, and mend the many broken hearts around this nation and world. We engage the Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to be an intercessor on our behalf, when senseless acts of violence and injustice, leave us with no words to express our feelings.

We ask that the leaders of this nation and of all the nations know you and petition your guidance. We pray for suffering children and families; and for those who are ill and overwhelmed; and for those without employment and those who are homeless. Please hear our prayers.

We pray now, that you hear our voices as we release to you the names that are on our hearts, that you are present in each of their lives and mindful of their challenges and victories.

(pause and let the congregants offer names and concerns)

We know you hear our prayers and know our needs. May we now commend them to you. We know you are our refuge and helper, and that you gave to us, the greatest gift in our Savior, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray and who taught us to pray in this manner:

**(Insert The Lord’s Prayer in the translation that is most common in your congregation.)**

Amen

## Scripture

**Matthew 6:9-13**  
(Contemporary English Version)

You should pray like this:

*Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name.<sup>10</sup> Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.<sup>11</sup> Give us our food for today.<sup>12</sup> Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.<sup>13</sup> Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.*

**Hymn** (optional choose from resources or select your own)

## The Sermon/ Message

*Note: On Laity Sunday the message can be delivered in many ways. If only one person is delivering the message, encourage time for prayer and discernment that God will direct the design and content of the message. With the theme "Teach us How to Pray," it is suggested that you review the different types of prayers (see the study section in the previous pages). Try to identify a prayer-type that speaks to the heart of the one delivering the Laity Sunday message as it encourages the presenter to develop their own story as they share part of their personal spiritual journey. This is an opportunity to inform others of how, through prayer, God has worked in their life.*

**Optional Sermon** (Speaker may also prefer to prepare their own, or modify this one):

## Sermon Presenter:

May these words of my mouth and this medita-

tion of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Pause, look at the congregation, don't give the biblical reference and then continue to read below).

*The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the skies announce what his hands have made.*

<sup>2</sup> *Day after day they tell the story;  
night after night they tell it again.*

<sup>3</sup> *They have no speech or words;  
they have no voice to be heard.*

<sup>4</sup> *But their message goes out through all the world;  
their words go everywhere on earth.*

*The sky is like a home for the sun.*

<sup>5</sup> *The sun comes out like a bridegroom from his bedroom.*

*It rejoices like an athlete eager to run a race.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun rises at one end of the sky  
and follows its path to the other end.  
Nothing hides from its heat.*

<sup>7</sup> *The teachings of the LORD are perfect;  
they give new strength.*

*The rules of the LORD can be trusted;  
they make plain people wise.*

<sup>8</sup> *The orders of the LORD are right;  
they make people happy.*

*The commands of the LORD are pure;  
they light up the way.*

<sup>9</sup> *Respect for the LORD is good;  
it will last forever.*

*The judgments of the LORD are true;  
they are completely right.*

<sup>10</sup> *They are worth more than gold,  
even the purest gold.*

*They are sweeter than honey,  
even the finest honey.*

<sup>11</sup> *By them your servant is warned.  
Keeping them brings great reward.*

<sup>12</sup> *People cannot see their own mistakes.  
Forgive me for my secret sins.*

<sup>13</sup> *Keep me from the sins of pride;*

don't let them rule me.  
Then I can be pure  
and innocent of the greatest of sins.  
<sup>14</sup> I hope my words and thoughts please you.  
LORD, you are my Rock, the one who saves me.

**New Century Version (NCV)**  
The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

I have just shared with you a song of David and prayer to God which is found in the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of Psalms. One can only imagine that the writer took the time to look up and around at the magnificent world that God created. The expressions are poetic, descriptive and personal.

I opened the message with a phrase that is often used at the beginning of a sermon. Though the intent of the request may be real, the words can roll off of the tongue with rote familiarity.

We are blessed to have resources and examples to get us started, and help us fashion a "suitable" prayer. I have heard the comments of many who had great fear of praying in a community because they felt they may do a poor job and be embarrassed in the community.

Whether we are praying alone in our private place, or whether we are praying before a large community of people, it is important to remember that prayer should never be a performance, but our way of communicating with God, through Jesus Christ. Ultimately, prayer begins with each one of us, individually, for God knows the truth of our words, whether we speak per-

fectly, or stumble or stutter. That is because God knows our heart. I stand in the need of prayer every day. What about you? Please join me in this prayerful song, **Standing in the Need of Prayer**, that God may hear our voices and take time to hear the words anew:

### **Congregational Response**

**Standing in the Need of Prayer**  
*Chalice Hymnal page 579*

We have just communicated through the prayer of this song, that we each individually acknowledge our need for prayer. Have you ever watched a person who sings as they work? They normally are singing what is in their heart, or what is on their mind. Some sing to pray.

We should always be mindful of what we sing. Some of the older hymns just flow with the familiar melodies and the words we know so well because we have sung them for many years. We are now going to sing another that is familiar. This is an invitation that God is with us in this worship place. This song is also a plea for help and an acknowledgement of the amazing properties of God. Please join me in this prayerful song of Praise and acknowledgement. Again, take time to hear the words anew:

### **Congregational Response**

**Come Thou Almighty King**  
*Chalice Hymnal page 27*

We have just acknowledged the mighty power of our amazing Creator in this prayerful song. God is powerful and wonderful and had a deep unending love for each one of us. God loved us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ that he might be our Savior. God already knew, before we were yet born, that we would

have both good times and struggles in our lives.

Words that were written by Joseph Scriven in 1855, in a poem, in letter to his mother after major life struggles had become a foundational hymn for us, and reminder that through all things, Jesus is still our friend, and sent to us, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to whom we can always carry our thoughts and burdens. Please join me in this prayerful song, and please listen to the words anew:

### ***Congregational Response***

#### ***What a Friend we Have in Jesus***

*Chalice Hymnal page 585*

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.

The words are included in the program today, so you may meditate on them. It might be a reminder of the original design that these words were not written for a melody, but as a personal expression of someone with struggles. It is truly a reminder of an amazing friend Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, who is always here for each one of us.

Hear again, the words I read to you at the beginning of this message. The message has not changed, but the phrasing and language is one that is common to our ear, and taken from the Easy-to-Read version of the Bible, that we may hear anew, and miss no detail of its importance:

*The heavens tell about the glory of God.*

*The skies announce what his hands have made.*

*<sup>2</sup> Each new day tells more of the story,  
and each night reveals more and more about God's power.<sup>[a]</sup>*

*<sup>3</sup> You cannot hear them say anything.*

*They don't make any sound we can hear.*

*<sup>4</sup> But their message goes throughout the world.  
Their teaching reaches the ends of the earth.*

*The sun's tent is set up in the heavens.*

*<sup>5</sup> It comes out like a happy bridegroom from his bedroom.*

*It begins its path across the sky  
like an athlete eager to run a race.*

*<sup>6</sup> It starts at one end of the sky  
and runs all the way to the other end.  
Nothing can hide from its heat.*

*<sup>7</sup> The LORD'S teachings are perfect.  
They give strength to his people.  
The LORD'S rules can be trusted.*

They help even the foolish become wise.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD'S laws are right.

They make people happy.

The LORD'S commands are good.

They show people the right way to live.

<sup>9</sup> Learning respect for the LORD is good.

It will last forever.

The LORD'S judgments are right.

They are completely fair.

<sup>10</sup> His teachings are worth more than pure gold.

They are sweeter than the best honey dripping from the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> His teachings warn his servants, and good things come to those who obey them.

<sup>12</sup> People cannot see their own mistakes, so don't let me commit secret sins.

<sup>13</sup> Don't let me do what I know is wrong.

Don't let sin control me.

If you help me, I can be pure and free from sin.

<sup>14</sup> May my words and thoughts please you.

LORD, you are my Rock—the one who rescues me.

#### **Psalm 19:2**

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)  
Copyright © 2006 by World  
Bible Translation Center

As we close our time together, finally, I want to bring a message from **1 Thessalonians, verses 16 – 28:**

*(Optional – a different Reader)*

Always be joyful <sup>17</sup> and never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do. <sup>19</sup> Don't turn away God's Spirit <sup>20</sup> or ignore prophecies. <sup>21</sup> Put everything to the test. Accept what is good <sup>22</sup> and don't have

anything to do with evil.

<sup>23</sup> I pray that God, who gives peace, will make you completely holy. And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. <sup>24</sup> The one who chose you can be trusted, and he will do this.

<sup>25</sup> Friends, please pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Give the Lord's followers a warm greeting.

<sup>27</sup> In the name of the Lord I beg you to read this letter to all his followers.

<sup>28</sup> I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you!

May the peace of God forever be with each one of you.  
Amen

### **Offering**

Each day, God gives from His bounty, let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

### **Offering Hymn**

#### **Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart**

*Chalice Hymnal Page 265*

### **Communion Meditation**

#### **First Reader – Communion**

Everything we do in public assembly is a measure of our respect for God. Nothing we do should dishonor God – at church or in our daily lives. Because we do fall short of respecting God in everything we do or think, we are indeed blessed to have Jesus Christ as our Savior.

#### **Second Reader - Communion**

We are gathered here, in the name of Jesus Christ. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, there are similar accounts of the time when Jesus sat down with his disciples to share a most important meal. In Matthew, the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning with the 26<sup>th</sup> verse it is written:

### **Third Reader - Communion**

*(or the Pastor or an Elder if that is the preference of your church)*

### **Words of Institution**

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

### **Second Reader - Communion**

And in the next verse of the same passage it is also written:

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **First Reader - Communion**

And so, in the same manner, we will share the cup, and together we will sing a hymn. Please join in this feast, as again, we have heard the story of the gift of the covenant that has been poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

### **Communion Hymn**

**Break Thou the Bread of Life**  
Chalice Hymnal Page 321

*(Share here the method in which the communion will be distributed.)*

### **Call to Discipleship**

Today you have prayed and shared in the truth and life, demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. If you want to be a follower, believe the good news of God's abounding love in Jesus Christ. Persons desiring to make their confession of faith in Christ and to be baptized into his body, or to transfer membership to this congregation, or to renew their Christian commitment, may come forward as the congregation sings a hymn of dedication.

### **Hymn of Invitation**

**Take My Life and Let it Be**  
Chalice Hymnal Page 609

### **Benediction**

### **Closing Hymn**

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**  
Chalice Hymnal Page 592

## *Appendix B*

### *Music Library*

*In the collection of hymns and music that follow, every effort has been made to provide resources to help you prepare for the worship and study experience. When possible, you will find the sheet music for a pianist or organist to accompany the vocals. In the event that is not available, refer to your Chalice Hymnal.*

*It is also exciting to provide at the end of the lyrics page, website addresses that may provide more information on the music and in some cases an opportunity to listen to the melody if you are not familiar with the song.*

*Hand down your  
mission - your holy love  
to lake, size garden  
even even people - of faith  
Hand down your spirit  
to the world*

# Sweet Hour of Prayer

1

Words: William Walford  
Music: William B. Bradbury

1

Piano

8

15

21

28

Free Sheet Music from [HymnSite.com](http://HymnSite.com)

1. Sweet hour of prayer!  
sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer!  
sweet hour of prayer!  
the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Savior shows his face,  
and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer!  
sweet hour of prayer!  
thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face,  
believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1

Words: Joseph M. Scriven  
Music: Charles C. Converse

Piano

The image shows the piano accompaniment for the hymn 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system is marked with a '1' above the treble staff. The second system is marked with a '5' above the treble staff. The third system is marked with a '9' above the treble staff. The fourth system is marked with a '13' above the treble staff. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.

# Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1

Words: George Croly  
Music: Frederick C. Atkinson

Piano

1

6

11

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.
2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no opening skies, but take the dimness of my soul away.
3. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear: to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.
4. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filing all my frame, the baptism of the heaven descended Dove. My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

# Break Thou the Bread of Life

1

Words: *Mary A. Lathbury*  
Music: *William F. Sherwin*

Piano

1

6

12

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea; beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord, my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee; then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my all in all.
3. O send thy Spirit Lord, now unto me; touch thou my longing eyes that I may see; give me to eat and live with thee above; teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

# Take My Life, and Let it Be

1

Words: Frances R. Havergal  
Music: Louis J.F. Herold

1

Piano



The first system of the piano accompaniment consists of four measures. The treble clef staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

5



The second system of the piano accompaniment consists of four measures, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

9



The third system of the piano accompaniment consists of four measures, continuing the melody and accompaniment.

13



The fourth system of the piano accompaniment consists of four measures, concluding the piece with a final cadence.

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.
3. Take my voice, and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.



1. G 2. G D

16 all - ers 17 oth - ers. 19 The Lord is right-eous in

G D

20 all his ways, 21 and ho - ly in his works. The

Am7 D Am7 D

25 Lord is nigh to 26 al that call. 27 that call up on him

G Am7 D7 Am7 D7

*D.C. al Segno e poi la Coda* **⊕ CODA**

31 true. 32 My mouth will speak all 33 orsis - es to the Lord

Am7 D7 G

36 bless his ho - ly name for - ev - er.

# Video Examples and Resources from YouTube

## Videos for Children's time

- MIDI (Melody)  
<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/html/w/lwantbac.htm>
- Children/Youth  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osQhtkIDERM>
- Korean Women's Chorus  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AN13vXmENxM>
- Photo with Children Playing / Music background  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ9IjKtyQWk>

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus and other Language Praise

You can use these clips as part of your worship to lead into the message. You can also use them as examples for the planning team to study as you develop your own message. (To open the YouTube sites, you need to have access to the website from your computer. Hold down the control key and click on the website address.

- **The Story Behind the Song: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKjUoE2fack>
- **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XRmGEbH0qs>
- **Country: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLAg2NDcOt4>
- **Child Singer: Jamia Simone-Nash : What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvxpjdm3veg>
- **Nelville Peter: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEUnBHXFSpU>
- **Malayalam - Enthu Nallor Sakhi Yesu.. (What a Friend we Have in Jesus)**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EfazzQN-mc>

- **Korean: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4ITwbDQI8c>
- **Spanish: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr5LAVv-ISY>
- **7 different languages: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovDZGneacMo>
- **Haitian worship / gospel and other Haitian Resources**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7nud9Bj434>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk7oKGyp0Y>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gSMAk9uzrk>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh-LzU3cruk>
- **Standing in the Need of Prayer - Vocabella**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aDI0umgp38>.
- **Standing in the Need of Prayer – Haitian Orphans**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P2YEC-ochc>

## Video Options for Prayers of Petition, Protection and Peace

- **D-day Prayer**  
YouTube – Roosevelt: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-weBUzQleo>
- **Prayers for Children and Families in Connecticut**  
YouTube – Obama: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfaYUrqcCrY&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfaYUrqcCrY&feature=player_embedded)

## Video Options for Intercessory Prayer

- **Prayer For A Friend by Casting Crowns**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYZ5z5ghKJI>
- **Military Tribute with music by Casting Crowns: US Military - Praise you in the Storm** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuxpUoCscg4>

## Video Options for Prayers of Thanksgiving

- **The Maranatha! Singers - Give Thanks**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXtWlF3fZRw>



This year's Laity Sunday/Week of the Laity package has been written by Minister Lonnie Graves of Concord, Calif. Lonnie Graves has been trainer, speaker, presenter and keynoter at many regional, state and national events across the United States. When she served as a Director of Women's Ministries in the national office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she embraced diversity and also directed Leadership Development programs for various constituency groups. She has directed national and regional travel experiences for groups within the United States and outside of the U. S. to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. She has served on various Boards of Directors, and on planning teams for international events. Lonnie is also a published writer and photographer. She is currently an adjunct instructor at a local college, and a part-time instructor at a small university in California. She continues as a communications consultant and curriculum and contextual learning experience developer.

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