



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

UNITED IN PRAYER

*If my people will respond by humbling themselves,
praying, and seeking my presence...I'll be there waiting for them!
I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore them to health.
From now on, I'm alert day and night to the prayers offered at this place.
—2 Chronicles 7:14*

This Sunday, September 13 from 1:00 to 1:30 pm people from every Lynden church will line Front Street, starting at the Phoebe statue at 6th Street and continuing to Fairway, seeking God's protection and giving thanks for His continued grace. Feel free to bring a blanket or chairs. The bells of First Reformed Church will signal the beginning and close of the prayer time.

Below is the prayer guide that can be used during that prayer time and in preparation for it, or in lieu of going, if you are unable to attend.

Prayers of Adoration

Psalm 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Prayer Point: Pray for stillness in your heart and mind. Acknowledge and exalt the name of Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

-from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Prayers of Confession

Joel 2:13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Luke 6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Prayer Point: As you pray, confess your sin. Acknowledge your blind spots. Ask for forgiveness for words spoken and unspoken, for anger, for misunderstandings. As the scripture says, rend your heart. Feel the brokenness that breaks the heart of Jesus while seeking forgiveness.

Prayer:

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, self-worth, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

-from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. We have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern. We have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice. We have sinned. Forgive us. And for the times we refused to forgive others. We have sinned. Father, Forgive us.

-from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Prayers for Reconciliation

Luke 10:23-37

“And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Prayer Point: Pray that God would help us to see that we are all created in His image. Pray that within our land: your neighborhood, this community, this nation and this world will see the brokenness and work towards understanding and reconciliation.

Prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, you created the one human family and endowed each person with great dignity. Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism. Grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civil institutions. Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor so that we may work with you in healing our land from racial injustice. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. We have prayed and now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet to action.

-Taken from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.org