Thanksgiving

Prayer Vigil

A sacred pause before the holiday to give thanks for the blessings in our lives while lifting up in prayer those in our community as well.

"Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. [We] bless God for all things, look on them as coming from Him, and receive them for His sake – not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will."

– JOHN WESLEY, 1755

PRAYER

Loving God, I enter this sacred quiet and turn my heart toward you. Your steadfast love endures forever, and I give you thanks. Your joy meets me here, gentle and deep. Your presence fills this place and steadies my spirit. Every good and perfect gift comes from your generous heart.

I give thanks for the life you have entrusted to me. I remember the people whose love has blessed my days, and I thank you for them. I place my family, friends, and neighbors in your faithful care. Bless the church I call home. May its care for others reflect your generous love. As I remember each congregant, teach me to pray with joy.

Receive the prayers and intercessions I offer for every person. Bring calm to those whose days are filled with stress. Renew the strength of those living with disease. Stay close to those living with uncertainty and awaken courage within them. Bless all who offer comfort and all who receive it.

Guide my hands toward work that brings life and let my words carry tenderness. Let your love flow through me into the world. I place every prayer before you with trust.

Amen.

SCRIPTURES

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:12

Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong! Be fearless! Don't be afraid and don't be scared by your enemies, because the Lord your God is the one who marches with you. He won't let you down, and he won't abandon you.

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*The people walking in darkness have seen a **great light**. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.*

ISAIAH 9:2

WEEK 1:

Hope

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world. "

– CS LEWIS

PRAYER PROMPT:

God, show me who or where I need to bring my hope to today.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- What does hope mean to me?
- How do I share hope with others?

WEEK 2:

Peace

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

– POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER PROMPT:

Holy Spirit, show me how I can be an instrument of your peace.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Where do I find my peace?
- How can I spread peace in the world?

WEEK 3:

Joy

"By keeping my eyes open for unexpected joys, I find the world gives back more than we sometimes think."

– DOLLY PARTON

PRAYER PROMPT:

Jesus, help me to see the joy in everything around.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Where do I find joy?
- How can I share joy in all situations?

WEEK 4:

Love

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

– MOTHER TERESA

PRAYER PROMPT:

Please let the love of God shine through me.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- How can I receive God's love?
- How can I share God's love with others?

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