

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

June 2021

Teach me your way,
O Lord,
that I may walk
in your truth;
Give me
an undivided heart
to revere your name.

Psalm 68:11



1 st	Justin, martyr at Rome (d.c.167): It is great wisdom to know how to be silent and to look at neither the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others. <i>St John of the Cross (1542-1591)</i>
2 nd	Week of Prayer for Reconciliation: My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures – then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. <i>Proverbs 2:1-5</i>
3 rd	Martyrs of Uganda (d.1886), John XXIII, bishop of Rome, reformer (d.1963), Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda, martyr (d.1977): Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in but with what it is still possible for you to do. <i>John XXIII</i>
4 th	Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. <i>Psalms 80:3</i>
5 th	Boniface of Mainz, bishop and martyr (d.754): Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. <i>Proverbs 4:5-6</i>
6 th	Second Sunday after Pentecost: May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others.
7 th	To fear the Lord is fullness of wisdom; she inebriates mortals with her fruits; she fills their whole house with desirable goods, and their storehouses with her produce. <i>Sirach 1:16-17</i>
8 th	My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for testing. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of calamity. <i>Sirach 2:1-2</i>
9 th	Columba of Iona, abbot and missionary (d.597): Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy. <i>Psalms 99:9</i>
10 th	People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble, cast into a pond, causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do. <i>Dorothy Day (1897-1980)</i>
11 th	Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr: If the only prayer you say in your whole life is thank you, it will be enough. <i>Meister Eckhart</i>
12 th	Above all, trust in the slow work of God. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete. <i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)</i>
13 th	Third Sunday after Pentecost: Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <i>1 Peter 2:1-3</i>
14 th	Stretch out your hand to the poor, so that your blessing may be complete. <i>Sirach 7:32</i>
15 th	Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer (d.1941): On every level of life, from housework to heights of prayer, in all judgment and efforts to get things done, hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur. <i>Evelyn Underhill</i>

16 th	Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. <i>Psalms 105:4-5</i>
17 th	"Neighbour" is not he whom I find in my path, but rather he in whose path I place myself, he whom I approach and actively seek. <i>Gustavo Gutiérrez (b.1928): A Theology of Liberation</i>
18 th	If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully, is a matter of your own choice. <i>Sirach 15:15</i>
19 th	...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? <i>Matthew 6:28-29</i>
20 th	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Gracious God, you gave your disciples the mandate to be your witnesses around the world and empowered them with your Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to accomplish this task. Today we ask that you help us to refocus our attention, as we face a task unfinished. You have blessed us with the power and the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Help us to use these for ministry and witness. <i>Amen.</i>
21 st	Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <i>James 1:12</i>
22 nd	Alban, first British martyr (d.c.209): But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. <i>James 1:22-25</i>
23 rd	You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. <i>James 2:8</i>
24 th	The Birth of John the Baptist: On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No, he is to be called John". They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name". Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <i>Luke 1:59-64</i>
25 th	If we want to serve the true God, we must break out of the circle of self-absorption and pay heed to the bloodied faces of our fellow human beings. If we do not share life with the oppressed, we do not share life with God. <i>Leonardo Boff (b.1938)</i>
26 th	Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults. <i>Sirach 28:7</i>
27 th	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: You are called to be truly human, but it is nothing short of the life of God within you that enables you to be so, to be remade in God's image. As C S Lewis said in a famous lecture, "next to the sacrament itself your Christian neighbour is the holiest object ever presented to your sight, because in him or her the living Christ is truly present". <i>N T Wright: The Challenge of Easter.</i>
28 th	Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. <i>Psalms 143:10</i>
29 th	Peter and Paul, Apostles and Martyrs: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. <i>Psalms 145:3</i>
30 th	When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills. <i>Chinese Proverb</i>



PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday** Call me to a halt before I pray, to inhale deeply then breathe out into my prayers all of who I am, making them as precious as pearls.
Book of Wonders: Edward Hays
- Monday** Please pray for all who are victims of sexual abuse and other forms of abuse. May they have the support and understanding they need. May parents and educators have great wisdom in communicating to young people about how to treat others with respect and safety. May churches be communities of safety and support for all.
- Tuesday** Grant me the readiness to set aside my plans when life proposes another agenda or the needs of others invite me to unexpected service.
- Wednesday** O Lord God, Father of us all, your kingdom come, your will be done, here, today, in this little bit of earth that is my life, as it is...always – in heaven.
Amen
- Thursday** Help me Lord today to confront all my fears with your grace and to see my world with the eyes of faith – and live accordingly.
- Friday** Lord, I ask for wisdom and discernment to make wise choices in my life. When I am tempted, give me the strength to flee it. When I am uncertain, help me to know the right course of action. When I need good ideas, enlighten my mind with creativity and intelligence. May I always walk in your wisdom and learn your ways.
- Saturday** Gracious God, make us channels of your peace, bearers of healing, women and men who hear and respond with alacrity to pleas for justice in our world. We ask all this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way.

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

for our *city on a hill*.... and beyond.

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**Little by little our church is opening up for selected services
but is not currently open for contemplation and prayer.**

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