

Thursday, 5/25

Read **Philippians 4:4-9**. What is the relationship between prayer and putting God's Word into practice?

Sing *Before the Throne of God Above*.

Pray, "Lord God, You have promised that You will cause Your name to be praised over all the earth. Your redemption will cover the globe and so we know that our prayers for Portland and her people, our cry that You deliver Northern New England to Your kingdom is a biblical prayer. O Lord, tear down the walls of indifference and complacency. Topple the bulwarks of the wicked. Shred the defenses of all those who would stand against You. With the power of Your Holy Spirit, allow us to proclaim in word and deed the good news of Your kingdom that boys and girls, men and women all throughout this place would be won to You. Glorify Your name through us we pray."

Friday, 5/26

Come to the prayer meeting **this morning at 6:30**.

Read **John 16:17-33**. How does Jesus tie relational intimacy to prayer? What is the purpose? Who overcame the world?

Feast and rejoice that God calls us to live with Him. There is no greater joy!

Pray that God would restore in us the joy of His salvation. Ask Him to help us see that He alone is everything that we need. Cry out to Him for a greater urgency in communicating this to our neighbors. Ask Him to work in the hearts and minds of the people you are witnessing to, that they too might discover the goodness of the Lord.

Saturday, 5/27

Read tomorrow's sermon context **Matthew 6:5-15**.

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Sing the song *I Lift My Eyes Up*.

Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in Portland. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.



CHRIST the  
REDEEMER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# PURPOSEFUL INTIMACY

## THE POWER AND PASSION OF PRAYER

Sermon notes from 5/21/06

**Matthew 6:5-8**

Rev. Douglas Warren

Text

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Message

I. Christian Prayer Is Intimate.

II. Christian Prayer Is Purposeful.

III. The Christian Praying Is Heard by God.

Please use the space below for writing any specific application points you note from the text:

Application

1. How is prayer intimate? What longings can it communicate?
2. What is the purpose of prayer?
3. Do you think God hears your prayers? Why or why not?

<sup>1</sup> See the website for the mp3 audio files of these messages [www.MainePCA.org](http://www.MainePCA.org).

<sup>2</sup> © 1990 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Music Services) CCLI License No. 1958155

<sup>3</sup> See the website for an article on gospel feasting.

<sup>4</sup> 1997 PDI Worship (ASCAP), Sovereign Grace Music. CCLI License No. 1958155.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

**W**hat differentiates Christian prayer from any other religious piety? Jesus teaches us about a passionate means of communicating with God the Father through prayer. It is at once as natural as breathing and as impossible as hurling the planet out of its orbit. What does it mean to talk with God?! How can any mortal claim such grandiose schemes? Let us look to His Word and learn how to speak with Him. You can review the sermons on-line. <sup>1</sup>

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

**Sunday, 5/21**

**Read** the context for the sermon: **Matthew 5:1-6:18**.

**Discuss** the sermon. What does it mean to pray?

**Sing** the song *I Lift My Eyes Up*. <sup>2</sup>

I lift my eyes up to the mountains.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from You,  
Maker of heaven, Creator of the earth.

Oh, how I need You, Lord.  
You are my only hope.  
You're my only prayer;  
So, I will wait for You  
To come and rescue me.  
Come and give me life.

I lift my eyes up to the mountains. Where does my help come from?

**Pray** that God would continue to change our hearts so that He is indeed our only hope. Pray for your neighbors to turn and pray to God intimately and purposefully.

**Monday, 5/22**

**Read Psalm 62:1-12**. Why does this psalm tell us to pour out our hearts to God?

**Rejoice** for the new life we have in Christ and His eternal kingdom.

**Pray**, “O Lord, we long to know You and be known by You in our prayers. We see the intimacy Your people have experienced with You in the pages of Your Word, and we want that kind of passionate purpose. Forgive us for pursuing far lesser things so often and neglecting our sweet communion with You. Draw us back into those tender delights of cherished conversation fully aware of Your presence. Rekindle the fire or romance in our hearts as we pour them out before You. Renew us we pray.”

**Extend** His grace to someone you know today. Lovingly and thoughtfully express to them in word and deed the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

**Tuesday, 5/23**

**Read First John 5:1-15** What is our confidence in approaching God?

**Meditate** on this reality, “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” How does relationship with the Son affect our prayers to the Father?

**Feast** in celebration of Christ’s great grace in freeing us from sin and death. <sup>3</sup>

**Sing** the song *Before the Throne of God Above*. <sup>4</sup>

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
A great high priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands.  
My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heav’n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look at Him and pardon me.  
To look at Him and pardon me.

**Pray** for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to save them.

**Wednesday, 5/24**

**Read Psalm 103:1-22**. With what does God satisfy our desires?

**Meditate** on the Lord’s compassion, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”

**Rejoice** that Christ has removed our transgressions from us.

**Sing** the song *I Lift My Eyes Up*.

**Pray** for the congregation of CTR that we would be transformed by this gospel and nothing else. Pray that we too would proclaim this good news.

Westminster Shorter Catechism (#98)

## What is prayer?

“Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies.”