

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Welcome

Prayer does not have to be difficult. It can be as easy as opening your spirit to God's Spirit and just agreeing with what He is telling you. If you are talking about sin, when something specific is placed on your spirit, you can trust that it is God. Confess to what he is telling you, release it to Him, choose to walk away from that stumbling block and ask for the strength to do so.

If the needs of a specific person is on your heart, then talk to God about their specific need. It is important to remember that you are not informing God about anything. There is nothing that He does not already know. A good way to look at prayer is that God may simply be informing us. If you are comfortable with prayer and have developed a good style and rhythm then feel free to use this time and this space to have a conversation with God. We read in Scripture that "*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*" Luke 5:16

If you struggle with style, content and consistency, please feel free to use the prayer stations and instructions that have been provided for you. If you would like to just sit quietly and pray how you feel led, you are also encouraged to do so. A couple of things that we would ask you to pray about are: That God would grant a clear mission and vision for The Well. That God would make the needs of our community clear to us. That God would direct the Pastor and Leaders of this church.

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Preparation

Please take a few moments to sit quietly and reflect. Do your best to minimize the distractions. Find a quiet place in the room if needed to just be still. Take as much time as you need to get your personal agenda out of your head so that you may be open to God's agenda.

We ask that you pray in faith. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to God's work in your life is your own doubt.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. James 1:5-7

Ask God to remove your doubt.

Prayer- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that I may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. Quiet my heart that I may hear your voice, stir my heart that I may more faithfully follow Jesus. This prayer I make on behalf of all who enter this place to meet with you today. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

When you are ready, please move to the next station.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Praises

“Praise be to God!” -Psalms 68:35 Tell God how much you appreciate Him. Express your love for Him. Praise His power and majesty. This is a great way to continue your prayer time. “How awesome are your deeds!” -Psalms 66:3 Name some of the awesome deeds he has done in creation, history, in the lives of the people you know and in your life. Be very specific. Write them down if it is helpful.

Prayer- Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. *It is right for us to give thanks and praise. Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord, our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and you preserve us by Your providence. But You have shown us the fullness of Your love in sending into the world Your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to You, we praise and bless You, O God. With Your whole church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore Your glorious name, evermore. Amen*

When you are ready, please move to the next station.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Confession

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” -1 John 1:9 Tell Him exactly where you have fallen short. Be incredibly specific. Don't just say I am angry, admit to God who you are angry and why. If you have a specific sin that won't go away, call it by name. God is aware of your sin, but he wants you to acknowledged it. Once you have done this, thank Him for the forgiveness you have in Christ, and ask for help and strength to turn away from any future temptations.

Please feel free to write your sins on a paper and nail them to the cross. In doing this, you are symbolically making a commitment to trusting the power of the resurrection to help you overcome sin and temptation so that you may experience freedom and forgiveness. This can be a great symbolic step toward overcoming the obstacles that have consistently tripped you up both morally and spiritually. It can be anything from having an unforgiving spirit and anger, to lustful and impure thoughts, or pride. It could be an addiction to alcohol, drugs, pornography or anything else. Again, be specific and name it.

Prayer- Holy and merciful God. In your presence I confess my sinfulness, my shortcomings, and my offenses against you, You alone know how I have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love, in choosing what pleases me over what pleases you. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am ashamed and sorry for all I have done to displease you. Forgive my sins, and help me to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my savior. Amen

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The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Gratitude

Always “glorify him with thanksgiving” -Psalms 69:30. You have plenty of reasons to be thankful. Thank God for His love, His faithfulness, His patience and a million other things. Express gratitude for what He’s doing in your life. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for you. Thank the Holy Spirit for indwelling you, and never leaving. Thank Him for being your conscience, your counselor and that “still small voice.” Thank him for all of the gifts you can think of great or small.

Prayer- It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of all life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. We thank, praise, and honor you, generous God, overflowing fountain of good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Requests/intercessions

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Once you have centered your heart on the richness and glory of God and have confessed sin, it is appropriate to come to the throne of God to make your requests. This is also known as intercessory prayer.

Personal- If you have any personal needs. Whatever is going on in your life that needs the attention of the Almighty God should be placed before him at this time. There is nothing too small and nothing too big to take to God. If you would like the people of this church to be praying about this, we urge you to write down your requests and those who come to this space later can pray for your requests.

Community- Please pray on behalf of anyone else that you know is in need. Talk to the God of heaven on their behalf. Our Father in heaven knows what they need but he still wants you to come to Him on their behalf. If others can be praying for them then please write the need down and place it in the basket as we well. We ask that you honor people's privacy and do not share anything that would break confidence or make those who are being prayed for uncomfortable. As you are praying, feel free to pray for any requests that are already in the basket.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

(Requests/intercessions Cont.)

General topics for intercessory prayer-

Creation- Environmental concerns, Natural Disasters

The World- War, Injustice, Hunger, Disease, Racial Strife, World Governments, International Crisis, International Relief Organizations

The Nation- Courts and judges, National leaders, The Military, Advocates for justice and peace

The Local Community- Local Government, housing, Racial/Socio-economic strife, employment, local economy, governments services, schools.

The Local Church- Pastors, Elders, staff, volunteers, members, regular attenders, those who are seeking Christ, unity of all, our developing mission and vision.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

(Requests/intercessions Cont.)

Specific topics for intercessory prayer:

(Please take your time to go through this list and as you feel led, lift up by name any individual or people that come to mind while you are praying through this list)

Pray for:

- Those who suffer with physical illness and those who care for them.
- Those who suffer from mental illness and those who care for them.
- Those who have intellectual, emotional, and/or behavioral impairments and those who care for them.
- Those who are elderly and infirm, and those who care for them.
- Those who suffer from abuse and those who support them.
- Those who suffer from addiction and those who support them.
- Those who mourn, and those who minister to them.
- Those who are imprisoned unjustly and those who minister to them.
- Those who are justly punished, the families who love and support them, and the ones who minister to them.
- Those who are fatherless and those who attempt to fill that space.
- Those who are homeless and those who care for and advocate on their behalf.
- Those who are victims of crime and those who support them.
- Those whose needs cannot be spoken.
- Those who are facing temptation.
- Those who struggle with marital difficulties.
- Those who are divorced or separated.
- Those whose sexuality is a source of pain.
- Those who celebrate the birth of a child.
- Those who long for children.
- Those who are being fostered and those who foster them.
- Those who are unemployed or underemployed.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

(Requests/intercessions Cont.)

Lastly, ask God to give The Well a unified mission and vision to rally behind. Pray that Christ will give us the desire and and resources necessary to love our neighbors in a significant way. Pray that we will all seek God with one heart. Pray that we will have a heart for the lost or for those who have by choice strayed from Christ. Pray that we will do what is necessary to reach our community and world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Pray that we will not just talk about making a difference, we will be people of both word and deed. Pray that there will be people in church who will rise up to see the Mission and Vision become a reality and Christ will be known and glorified.

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The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Communion

Now is the time to come to the table of the Lord. Understand that while the Lord's supper is deeply personal, it is never private. Though you may be receiving the elements, individually, be ever mindful of your connection to the rest of your brothers and sisters in Christ, in particular your brothers and sisters of The Well. The Lord's supper is a celebration and proclamation of Jesus' presence with us, the forgiveness of sin offered for us, a reminder of the spiritual nourishment working in us, and the unity of Christ body among us. The Lord calls us to return to this time and time again to remember all that he has done for us. During this time, meditate on His perfect sinless life, how he helped people, served, people, taught people. Meditate on what broke his heart and allow it to break yours. Meditate on the night before his crucifixion as he sat with his friends, teaching them and praying with them. Ask him what he would say to you if you were there. Meditate about Jesus in the garden, praying "not as I will but as you will" and pray about how you can live out God's will for your life. Meditate on how he willingly walked the road to calvary and how you can walk a difficult road if he puts one before you. Meditate on how he gave his life for yours and how you can live the same sacrificial existence on behalf of others. Mediate on the resurrection. In your mind see Jesus victoriously out of the tomb and know that the same power that rose Christ from the dead is alive in you to give you victory in life both now and forever more. Meditate on how He will one day return and take you to live with Him in glory with not sin and no shame for all eternity. When you have done this, please receive the Lord's supper with gratitude.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

(Communion Cont.)

Invitation to Communion- Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

26 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." Matthew 26:26

(Take and eat the Bread)

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:27

(Drink of the cup)

Prayer- Lord Jesus you declared; "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. I believe in and trust your word. Amen

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The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Reflection- Perhaps God has put someone or something very specific on your heart. Ask Him what He wants you to do. You may need to ask for forgiveness or you may need to confess your private sin to someone for accountability. God may be asking you to do something else. He may want you to give something away or find a place to volunteer in our community. He may be asking you to facilitate change in someone else's life by entering into their pain and seeing to their needs. God often gives us very specific things to do. Ask him to reveal his plans to you.

The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Action- Scripture tells us; ***Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22***

Commit to doing whatever God is telling you to do no matter the cost or the risk. When His Spirit speaks to our spirit it is powerful. Trust that wherever God directs us he has already prepared the way. Be obedient. God has revealed his will for your life so respond to what he says. Pray for both the courage and the opportunity.

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The Well Community Prayer Vigil

Benediction- Thank God for your personal time with Him. Be grateful for the opportunity to come to the throne of Maker of Heaven and Earth. Ask for a blessing on all of those who enter this place after you. Maybe find a chair in the sanctuary and offer a prayer for the people who will sit there. May they find God, needed blessings, healing and encouragement in this place.

Prayer- May the love of God enfold us. May the grace of God uphold us. May the power of God set us free to love and serve all God's people. Now to God, who by the means of the power working in us is able to do much more than we can ask or even think, to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all times, for ever and ever. Amen

-Go in God's Blessing