

OPENING SENTENCES / or Call to worship:

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth, since he has promised that if we seek for him with our whole heart we shall surely find him, for He is already seeking for us.

SAY: "As we continue to follow the order of worship printed in our bulletin, let us pray in unison....

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ taught us to pray, and promised that what we ask in his name will be given us; so guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve thy will and show thy steadfast love through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Our Father, as we look out upon a world in which all things seem to be shaken, we thank Thee for the assurances which come to us from the past. We praise thee that truth crushed to earth has always risen again; and that, though love has been crucified and buried by hate, always it has come to life again.

We thank thee, Heavenly Father, for those men and women who lived and served our country that we might enjoy freedom and opportunity. We want to be worthy of this great inheritance. We would accept now our obligation for the present, with its promise of yet greater things to be. We do not ask deliverance from hard tasks or seek exemption from sacrifice. Give us grace that is sufficient. Save us from conceit, but increase within us worthy self-respect. Help us to serve without thought of personal gain and for the sole purpose of doing to the best of our ability any task that is given to us to do. Make us worthy of the trust put in us. May we have the bravery and the devotion that befit the time. May we have faith in the future of essential democracy. Grant that we may always cherish and protect the defenseless, supporting them by our strength, and shielding them by our manliness and courage, that through us they may feel the Heavenly Father's care.

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray Thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the soldiers of our country in every peril; especially shelter them in battle in Viet Nam and keep them safe from all evil.

Eternal God, who hast established the firm foundations of the earth and erected the vaults of the blue, have mercy upon all in our Air Force who fly through the great spaces of the sky. Uphold them with thy saving grace and give them the assurance of thy protection.

O God, who art the confidence of all who dwell upon the earth and of them that are afar off upon the sea, safeguard the lives of our sailors as they defend our country on the oceans and maintain the justice and freedom of the nations. Keep them strong in faith, in courage, and in self-control.

Almighty God, Lord of the nations: direct all those who govern us; bless our Commander-In-Chief President Johnson, and those with authority in every land, that they may be led by thy wisdom, and rule with justice and mercy.

Forgive us all, O Lord, when we in any way fall short of the best that we know. Let us always resist the weaknesses and wrongs that hinder our upward climb toward the destiny of the kingdom of God. By our faith in Thee and in thy revelation to us in thy Son Jesus Christ may we keep constantly in the way of making our world better than we have yet known. May we proclaim Him and His gospel as the answer to the problems of our confused generation. Never let us be content, but help us increasingly to be creative servants of thine, always following the example and embodying the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

These things we ask in His name who taught us when we pray to say...."Our Father....."

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Eternal God, whose steadfast love has brought us to this place and to this hour, we thank thee for life and being, for all the blessings of ^{the} this past week; for the love we have received and given; for all the kindnesses we have received from others and for thy grace going before us and following after us to guide, sustain, forgive, and hearten.) Above all we thank thee for Jesus Christ, through whom we know of thy love and receive thy grace.

Lord, thou hast set before us the great hope that Christ's Kingdom will come on earth, and hast summoned us to pray and work for its coming; we pray that thou wilt give to the nations of the world a new will for peace with justice and freedom for all. Grant that in any time of crisis when citizens of good will and dedication are confused and divided in their opinion, that our President and all our leaders, in cooperation with other peace-loving rulers, may be led into a just and peaceful solution of acute problems. Give courage and strength and faith to the members of our armed forces around the world.

O thou, whose tenderness is that of an all-knowing and all-loving Father, we bring to thee all in any danger, all who are sick, and all who are bereaved. Be with those who have abandoned hope, those whose hearts are bitter, and those who feel lonely, hurt, rejected, and sad. We pray for our own dear ones, wherever they are, that, surrounded by thy love, they may be kept in health and joy, and abide in deep peace, even that which is given through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught his disciples when they pray to say.... Our Father, who are in heaven....

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Let thy Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts,
O God, and consecrate our gifts, and perfect
the offering of ourselves to Thee,
that all that we have and are may be greatly
used in the service of Thy Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

F.C. 16. 113, Feb '67