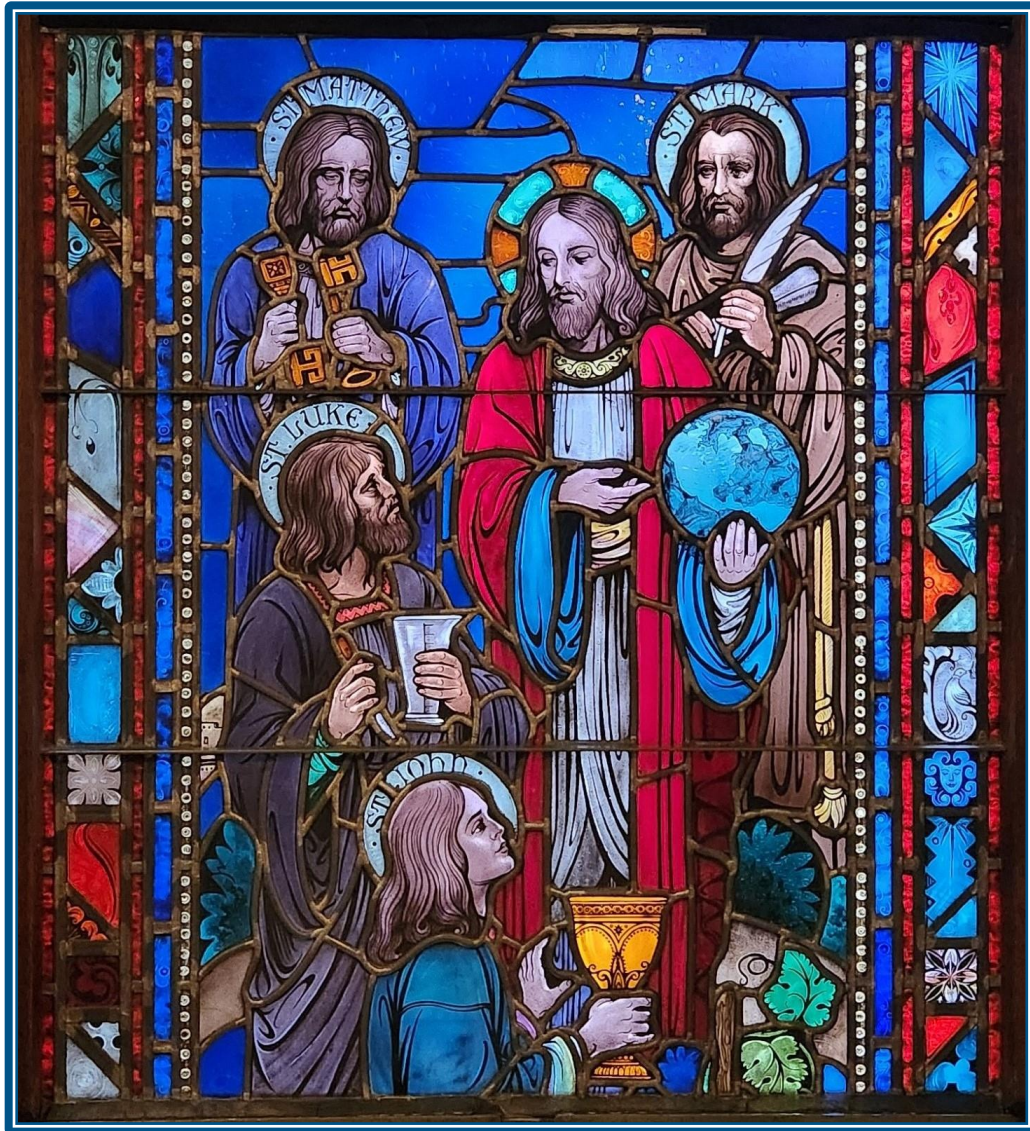


# You Will Be My Witnesses

## A Prayer Vigil for Missions



**June 24 – 25, 2023**  
**9:00 am to 9:00 am (EST)**

**All Saints Church**  
**Chevy Chase, MD**

**You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**

– Acts 1:8

## From St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ within me;  
Christ above me;  
Christ below me;  
Christ before me;  
Christ behind me;  
Christ on my right;  
Christ on my left;  
Christ all about me

To guide, and direct me,  
That each meeting will be,  
Each work undertaken,  
By, with, and in him  
performed to his glory.

*Amen.*

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# Introduction

*So when the disciples had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

**Acts 1:6-9**

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior and Beloved Friend,

Like the disciples, we long to know and understand what God is doing and what His plan is. Unfortunately, we have not been given that information. Instead, we are given a calling. A calling straight from the mouth of Jesus Himself. A calling to be faithful witnesses of what Christ has done, said, and accomplished for our redemption!

This calling can make us nervous, uncomfortable, or even fearful, but think of the honor it is to be ambassadors of the King of kings and Lord of lords (**2 Corinthians 5:20**). We get to represent and reflect the love God has for the whole world (**John 3:16**), and we get to make an eternal difference in the lives of people around us – whether they are family, friends, acquaintances, colleagues, or even strangers. This is hard work, but it is good and beautiful work because it is about God's mission to the whole world.

This Prayer Vigil is dedicated to praying for those engaged in this calling to bring the Gospel to everyone. From the first pages of the Bible, we see that God has a heart for all people. As Creator of the entire cosmos (**Genesis 1:1**), He is the God of all people, and after the first sin in the Garden of Eden, He promised to send a redeemer for all people (**Genesis 3:15**). And as we know, God fulfilled this promise when He sent Christ into the world to save sinners (**1 Timothy 1:15**). Thanks be to God!

Specifically, our prayers will follow the structure of Acts 1:8. First, God calls us to be witnesses in "Jerusalem" – the areas immediately surrounding All Saints Church. Then, He calls us to share the Gospel in "Judea and Samaria" – locally within our own state and country. Finally, He calls us to take the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Therefore, we will pray for the mission ministries of All Saints Church, then our Local Mission Partners in the DC Area, and finally for our Global Mission Partners throughout the world.

Thank you for joining together in prayer during this 24-hour period. What you are doing truly has eternal consequences. If you get stumped and don't know how to pray, rest assured that the Holy Spirit is with you, empowering you, and even praying on your behalf (**Romans 8:26–27**). May we all be inspired by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our calling where God has placed us, and may He empower His people locally and globally to share the Gospel of Christ to people everywhere!

With the love of Christ,

BJ Buracker  
Interim Rector

# About This Booklet

## Using the Prayer Guide

This Booklet is designed to aid and inspire you as you come to God in prayer. We hope that God will use it to focus your heart and mind on God and His Mission to reach all people for the cause of Christ. In sending His Son into the world to suffer, die, and rise again, God has delivered us from the power of sin and death. May He now guide us – as individuals and as a church – and our Local and Global Mission Partners family as we seek to share the love of Jesus with as many people as possible!

The Prayer Guide is divided into three main sections, each basing its themes, readings, and prayers on one aspect of God’s mission to the world: (1) us and our parish, (2) our local partners, and (3) our global partners.

At a steady pace, you should be able to pray through this Prayer Guide in about an hour, but do not feel the need to rush. You may focus the areas of mission that stir your heart most and simply end when the hour is over. It is best, however, if you begin with the Opening Reflections and finish with the Closing Reflections as they will help you move from preparation to thanksgiving and action. Please also spend several minutes at the end of each section reflecting on what you have read, heard, and seen; and offer up to God the spontaneous prayers of your heart.

For this Vigil, we have incorporated art and music into our prayers. Take some time to mediate upon the paintings – their colors, symbols, figures, stories, etc. – as they may inspire your thoughts and prayers. For the music, simply click on the link provided (where it says, “Click Here...”), and your device should play the music automatically. If the music does not play, refer to your email where we have copied the links for each song. Feel free to pause and listen or sing as the music should also aid your prayers.

May the Lord use the Vigil to inspire you and our church to share the love of Christ and to bless, strengthen, and grow the ministries of all our partners. To Him be all the glory and praise!

## Acknowledgments

This Prayer Vigil depends on the invaluable prayers, labor, and inspiration of many of our parishioners. I would like to thank especially Cynthia Bryant, Dan Buckingham, Judy Kelly, Mary Lee Kingsley, and Richard Ranger for their assistance in compiling all the readings and prayers; Nancy Gray and Mary Lee Kingsley for providing artwork; and Nancy Gray and Gary Wieder for providing musical selections. Thank you also for dedicating your valuable time to join us in prayer today. May God bless you for your faithfulness!

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All Scripture citations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. Prayers are taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) unless otherwise noted.

# Opening Reflections

## A Litany for Missions (SAPB)

God the Father, Creator of heaven and Earth,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the Faithful,  
*Have mercy on us.*

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

That it may please you to plant your church in  
all the world, that the name of Jesus may be  
known and worshipped by all peoples,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to awaken a zeal for  
missions in the hearts of all your people,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to send out laborers  
into your harvest,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to enkindle within your  
people an awareness of mission and a  
willingness to provide faithful support,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will  
be forever. Amen.

## From the Catechism (BCP)

### Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized  
persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal  
priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

That it may please you to bless the missions to  
all unevangelized areas of North America,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to restore and enlarge  
your Church in the Caribbean, Central and  
South America as well as throughout the  
world,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

For an increase in evangelism and ministries of  
mercy in our local community and abroad,  
that all people may come to know and enjoy  
your blessings,  
*We pray to you, O God.  
Lord, hear our prayer.*

For greater awareness of the persecuted  
Churches and the injustices that they endure,  
*We pray to you, O God.  
Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed  
people of the world, and all who suffer for the  
sake of the Gospel,  
*We pray to you, O God.  
Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Q. What is the mission of the Church?**

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

**Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?**

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

**Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?**

A. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

**Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?**

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

**Q. What is the ministry of the laity?**

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

## **Opening Prayers**

### **For the Mission of the Church (BCP)**

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **A Collect for the Feast of Pentecost (BCP)**

Almighty God, on the Day of Pentecost you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, **on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Please now take 2–3 minutes to ask God to open your heart to His calling and mission for the world.**

# Witnesses in Jerusalem

## The Mission Ministries of All Saints Church



### Opening Verses for Meditation

#### Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

#### Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

#### Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

#### Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

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Artwork: James Tissot, *The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes*; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn (1886-1896).



## Lessons and Psalms

### 2 Kings 23:1-3

1 Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. 2 And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. 3 And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

### Psalm 67:4-10

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings  
forth prisoners into freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your  
people, \*  
when you marched through the  
wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured  
down rain, at the presence of God, the God of  
Sinai, \*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your  
inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was  
weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made  
provision for the poor.

### Acts 4:31-37

31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. 32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## Collects and Prayers

### Guide My Footsteps (Cynthia Bryant)

Precious Lord, I thank you for the blessings of this life, for clothing me, feeding me, and opening my eyes to the wonders of your grace and mercy. I beseech thee, heavenly father, to guide my footsteps as I take your hand, for your will to be mine, for your thoughts to shape mine, for your deeds to become mine. Lord, I know that in the beginning was the word and you are the word. Through my daily living, guide me to live, give praise, and minister to others with the spirit of your teachings and love. Grant me wisdom to understand the power of the holy spirit that shines down on me and the All Saints Church family, giving thanks and praise to you as we minister to people, both near and far to lead them into your joy and embrace. In all this I pray in the name of the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

### A Prayer for Mission (BCP)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

## Specific Requests

Let us now focus on God's calling to us and to our parish, and how He is directing us to share the love of Christ within our own neighborhoods and communities:

- For yourself: that God would show you how God is calling you to share the Gospel in word and deed;
- For VBS: that the children would experience and accept the love of Christ, that the program would run smoothly, that God would uphold and sustain all our volunteers and staff; and that at least three new families would become part of the All Saints community as a result
- For Knollwood: that God would bless them with a joyful and loving community, that He would use the Bible studies, movie nights, and Alpha programs to make Himself known to the residents; and that He would comfort those who mourn;
- For the Blessing Bag Ministry: that men and women who are in need of food would receive it at our doors and feel loved and welcomed by our parish;
- For the Thrift Shop: that their proceeds would continue to be used to further Kingdom of God and that people in need of material may find it available and affordable in our shop; and
- For all our ministries: that God would use All Saints Church in old, new, and creative ways to help people in their physical needs and direct them to the Savior of their spiritual needs.

## **A Song: Amazing Grace**

[\(Click here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

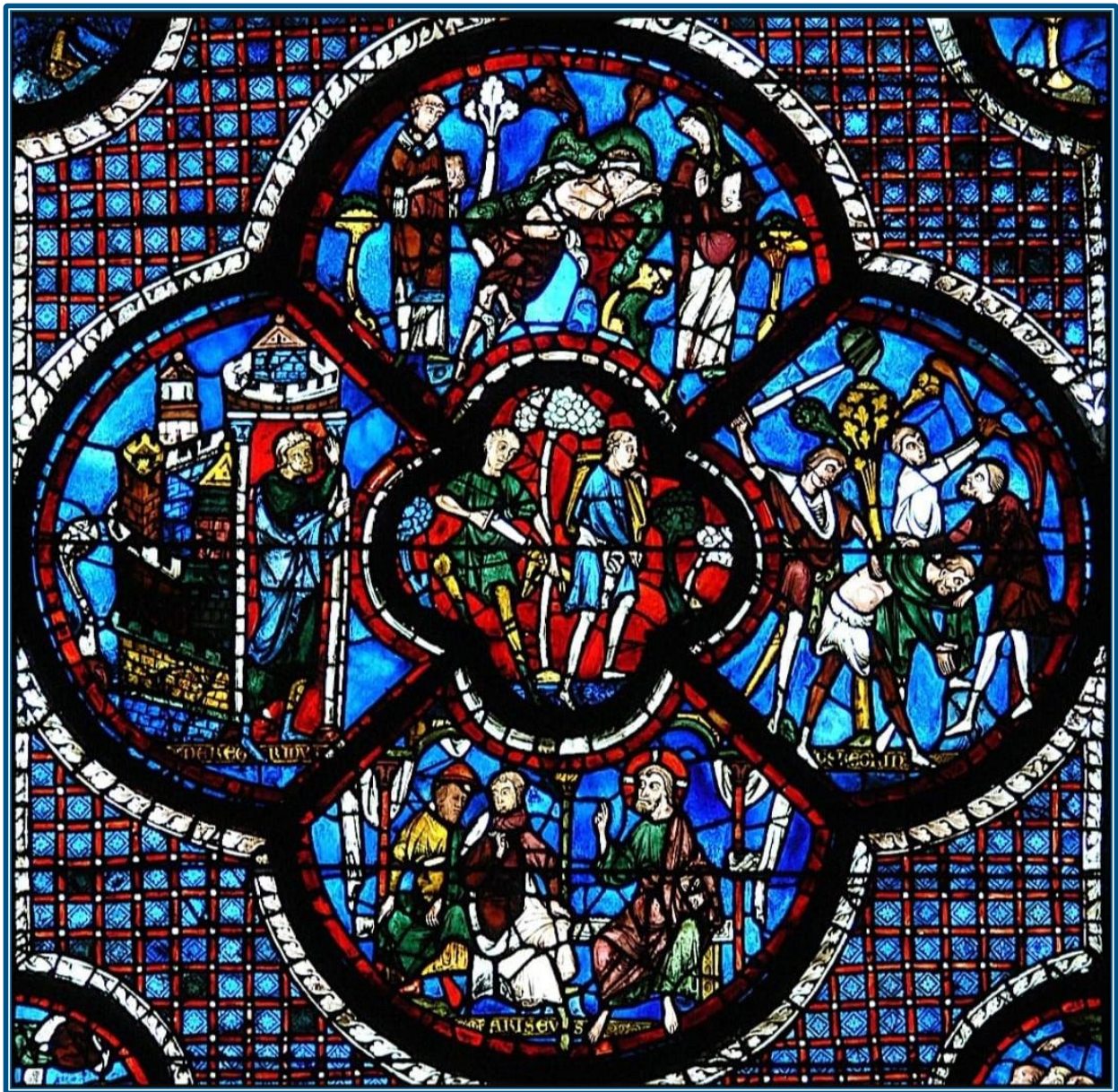
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

**Please now take 2–3 minutes to pray for All Saints Church and its ministries however God leads and directs your heart.**

# Witnesses in All Judea and Samaria The Ministry of Our Local Mission Partners



## Opening Verses for Meditation

### Proverbs 11:24-27

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

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Artwork: *The Good Samaritan Window*. Cathedral de Notre Dame, Chartres, France (c. 1200).

## Deuteronomy 22:4

You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. You shall help him to lift them up again.

## Lessons and Psalms

### Deuteronomy 15:7-11

7 "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. 9 Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. 10 You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

### Psalms 61

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Hear my cry, O God, *<br/>and listen to my prayer.</p> <p>2 I call upon you from the ends of the earth<br/>with heaviness in my heart; *<br/>set me upon the rock that is higher than I.</p> <p>3 For you have been my refuge, *<br/>a strong tower against the enemy.</p> <p>4 I will dwell in your house for ever; *<br/>I will take refuge under the cover of your<br/>wings.</p> | <p>5 For you, O God, have heard my vows; *<br/>you have granted me the heritage of<br/>those who fear your Name.</p> <p>6 Add length of days to the king's life; *<br/>let his years extend over many<br/>generations.</p> <p>7 Let him sit enthroned before God for ever; *<br/>bid love and faithfulness watch over him.</p> <p>8 So will I always sing the praise of your<br/>Name, *<br/>and day by day I will fulfill my vows.</p> |
|---|---|

### Luke 10:29-37

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the

place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

## **Collects and Prayers**

### **Collect for Guidance (BCP)**

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being; We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Collect for Social Service (BCP)**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **A Prayer for the Poor and Neglected (BCP)**

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Our Enemies (BCP)**

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Specific Requests**

Let us now focus on God's calling to us and to our parish, and how He is directing us to share the love of Christ within our own neighborhoods and communities:

- For Little Lights:
  - That their 5-week summer camp program would bless the children, staff, and volunteers;
  - That the founders, Steve and Mary Park, and all who serve the communities in southeast DC through Little Lights, would faithfully love the people around them; and
  - That the children and families served by Little Lights would be filled with the Spirit and joy of Christ!

- For the Interfaith Women’s Shelter:
  - That God would provide healing, protection, faith, and restoration for all the women who live in the shelter;
  - That God would bless the staff with compassion, joy, and encouragement; and
  - That we would have more opportunities to serve and minister to the women at the shelter with gladness and love.
- For Bread Coin:
  - That the Lord would guide and provide for he founders, Cary and Scott, and all who volunteer and work at Bread Coin so that its scope and outreach would expand;
  - That the local business who deal with Bread Coin would continue to provide a compassionate and helpful service to people in need; and
  - That the underserved population in our area would benefit from Bread Coin so that they can access food easily and with dignity.

### **A Song: If We are the Body**

[\(Click here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

It's crowded in worship today  
 As she slips in  
 Trying to fade into the faces  
 The girls' teasing laughter is carrying  
 Farther than they know  
 Farther than they know

*Chorus:*  
 But if we are the body  
 Why aren't his arms reaching?  
 Why aren't his hands healing?  
 Why aren't his words teaching?  
 And if we are the body  
 Why aren't his feet going?  
 Why is his love not showing them there is a way?  
 There is a way

A traveler is far away from home  
 He sheds his coat  
 And quietly sinks into the back row  
 The weight of their judgmental glances  
 Tells him that his chances are better out on the road (*chorus*)

Jesus paid much too high a price  
 For us to pick and choose who should come  
 And we are the body of Christ (*chorus*)

**Please now take 2–3 minutes to pray for our Local Missions Partners  
 however God leads and directs your heart.**

# Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth

## The Ministry of Our Global Mission Partners



### Opening Verses for Meditation

#### Acts 1:7-8

Jesus said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

#### Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

#### Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.



## Lessons and Psalms

### Isaiah 6:1-8

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." 8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

### Psalm 96:1-4, 7-10

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation  
from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be  
praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the  
peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his  
Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of  
holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is  
King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it  
cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."

### Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## Prayers and Collects

### Prayers of the People for Mission (Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders, adapted)

For the growth of God's Kingdom throughout the world,  
We pray to you, O God.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the ministry of the Holy Church of God to make disciples of all nations,  
We pray to you, O God.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all baptized Christians, that they may discern their vocation to spread the Gospel at all times and in all places,  
We pray to you, O God.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who have not yet heard or believed in the Gospel, and those who may have the opportunity to declare it to them,  
We pray to you, O God.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That it may please you to prosper the faith and practice of your Church in Africa,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to raise up faithful evangelists to rebuild the Church in Europe,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to increase the Christian witness among the people of the Middle East,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to invigorate those who spread the Gospel in China, India, and all Asia,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to grant peace and stability in the Holy Land, that the Gospel may be both heard and obeyed,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to inspire faithful preaching of your Holy Gospel,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to assist with grace our missionaries and their families, both at home and abroad,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to enlighten all seekers, and to strengthen all new converts,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to guide bishops, priests, and deacons, and all who minister in your Church,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to deliver all nations and people from the cruelty of racism and nationalistic imperialism,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to bless medical, agricultural, and economic missions done for your glory,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

That it may please you to guide and inspire all Bible translators, that your Word may be proclaimed in all tongues,  
*We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.*

## Specific Requests

Let us now focus on God's calling to us and to our parish, and how He is directing us to share the love of Christ within our own neighborhoods and communities:

- For Rev. Bisoke Balikenga in the Congo:
  - That God would provide healing and health to Bisoke, his wife Furaha, his whole family, and all the people he serves in the Peace Center;
  - That God would finally establish peace in the Congo; and
  - That people bent on hate and violence would instead find that the better way to live is through peace, love, and forgiveness.
- For Catherine and Richard Ranger and Uganda Christian University:
  - That God would bless and inspire the Rangers, the students, and the faculty at UCU;
  - That God would keep them all safe and healthy;
  - That the Rangers would use their speaking engagements to share the Gospel with others; and
  - That the students would take their knowledge both of their studies and of God to help and serve their communities for many years to come.
- For Bishop Deo and the Mustard Seed Ministry in Rwanda:
  - That God would expand the children's feeding program to a daily ministry and that the children would be able to attend school and break the cycle of poverty;
  - That Bishop Deo, his family, and his staff would be inspired and empowered to continue serving children and prisoners in need of hope;
  - That we would have an opportunity to send a team to Rwanda next year; and
  - That the children served would learn about the love of Jesus through this ministry.
- For Dr. Silvia Martinez in the Dominican Republic:
  - That Dr. Silvia would have the resources to continue providing medical care to her neighbors and communities;
  - That displaced Haitians would receive the help that they desperately need; and
  - That God would miraculously provide the children and their families with the food and medicine they need.

### A Song: Here I am Lord

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart

**Please now take 2–3 minutes to pray for our Global Missions Partners  
however God leads and directs your heart.**

# Concluding Reflections

## Closing Verses for Meditation

### Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

### Romans 10:14

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

### Matthew 25:34, 37-40

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

## From the Catechism (BCP)

### Q. What is the Old Covenant?

A. The Old Covenant is the one given by God to the Hebrew people.

### Q. What did God promise them?

A. God promised that they would be his people to bring all the nations of the world to him.

### Q. What response did God require from the chosen people?

A. God required the chosen people to be faithful; to love justice, to do mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.

### Q. What is our duty to God?

A. Our duty is to believe and trust in God;

- I To love and obey God and to bring others to know him;
- II To put nothing in the place of God;
- III To show God respect in thought, word, and deed;
- IV And to set aside regular times for worship, prayer, and the study of God's ways.

### Q. What is the New Covenant?

A. The New Covenant is the new relationship with God given by Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to the apostles; and, through them, to all who believe in him.

### Q. What did the Messiah promise in the New Covenant?

A. Christ promised to bring us into the kingdom of God and give life in all its fullness.

## **Closing Prayers**

### **A Prayer of the Reign of Christ (BCP)**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Missions (BCP)**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving for the Mission of the Church (BCP)**

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

### **The General Thanksgiving (BCP)**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.