



DAILY PRAYER PROJECT

ANIMATING A LIFE OF PRAYER THROUGH THE MANIFOLD BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH

Credits

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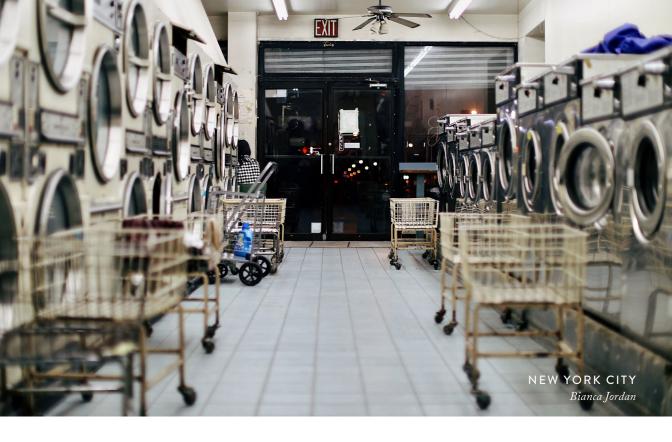
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ashley Williams

"The discovery of God lies in the daily and the ordinary, not the spectacular and the heroic. If we cannot find God in the routine times of home and shop, then we will not find him at all. Ours is to be a symphonic piety in which all the activities of work and play and family and worship and sleep are the holy habitats of the eternal."

—Richard J. Foster, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*

Recently, I've spent time thinking about what many church mothers and fathers conceptualized as the two-book theory of revelation. The idea is that God, in his wisdom, has spoken to humanity through his word and through the world—that is, through special written revelations delivered to us from the witness of prophets, kings, poets, and apostles by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, *and* through the finitude of space and time in which we receive them.

Scripture itself attests to this latter mode of revelation, as the apostle Paul writes: "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made" (Rom. 1:19–20).

I'm in or around many denominational streams that do a decent job of equipping congregants to read and understand scripture. But similar attention to this second book that Paul alludes to is often lacking. While indeed scripture is sufficient for all we need for life and godliness, the created order around us, too, serves as a teacher and guide, and a good one (Gen. 1)! The invitation embedded in this season of Ordinary Time is to become present to the world where we live and breathe, work and play. This invitation is an

embrace of the mundaneness (from the Latin *mundus*, meaning "world") and of the regular ebbs and flow of daily life. Now, some may read this and hear "boredom." But I write this and feel freedom—freedom because nearness to God does not require us to lock ourselves away in an office or chapel prostrate in prayer before an open Bible, though that is certainly no waste of time. Felt communion with God is not something that's available only to the most holy and heroic among us. Instead, we can be sure God delights to meet each of us, as we are, both holy and profane, in the garden and in the Gospels, in the fields and in Philippians, in the streets and in the Psalms.

In this edition, we embrace God's second book and seek to sit humbly at its feet among the dirt and daisies, confident because the same Spirit who spoke to the myriad of biblical writers also suspended himself over the created world within which we read them. Even the ground where we rhetorically sit has its lessons to teach us. In his book *Beginning to Pray*, the Orthodox bishop Anthony Bloom argues, "The word 'humility' comes from the Latin word 'humus,' which means fertile ground. . . . Humility is the situation of the earth. The earth is always there, . . . silent and accepting everything and in a miraculous way making out of all the refuse new richness. . . . Learn to be like this before God; abandoned, surrendered, ready to receive anything from people and from God." From

the ground up, there is much our world can teach us.

As students, we sit alongside our brothers and sisters in Melanesia, praying thanksgiving "for rocks, signs of your strength and your steadfast love, ... [and] for shells, signs of your variety and your joy in creating this world, which you have given to our care." With the English hymn writer Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, we raise our praises "for the beauty of the earth, / for the glory of the skies, / for the love which from our birth over and around us lies." We meditate on the intricate quilt work of American artist Ernestine Ebernhardt Zaumsiel, letting it weave us gently into "the greening power of God that is in every living thing, an expression of divine creativity at work in the world, including the inner and outer lives of humans." And we are guided in a spiritual practice, a silent stroll behind artist, writer, and spiritual director Lauren Shea Little, tuning our hearts to the sounds of our Creator who has fashioned the earth as "an instrument of aliveness through which God speaks."

Throughout this edition, we are invited to sing the joyful songs of the birds above us and to groan with the laments of the ground beneath us, assured that God's presence is real and accessible through the ordinary all around us. So, be free to work, rest, play, and pray without ceasing. God promises to meet you there and everywhere.

INTRODUCTION

he Daily Prayer Project (DPP) is a movement that exists to animate the life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church. We connect and unify Christians by resourcing them with daily prayers, practices, and music from the global-historical church, and visual art of spiritual and artistic value. All of these rich resources are crafted into a simple, functional, and beautiful product: our Living Prayer Periodicals (LPPs). This is what you are holding in your hands right now.

We produce six LPP editions per year that move with the Christian seasons of Advent, Christmas & Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. These editions combine dynamic and diverse content with a stable method for morning and evening prayer.

This method not only provides consistency for the life of prayer and practice, but it also forms us all into a life of communion with God and unity with our global and historical family of faith. It is this communal prayer that fuels and forms our own expressions of prayer in the present season of our lives. The DPP is an entrance into the holy, unifying, and empowering experience of praying together in a common way without ceasing throughout the Christian year.



he Daily Prayer Project logo is a monogram crafted into a prayer labyrinth. The mark itself becomes a practice of prayer. Rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of pilgrimage, prayer labyrinths have a history as far back as the fourth century in an Algerian church.

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is one entry point, and a single pathway leading to the center. The journey is a transformative walk toward God, the center of the

labyrinth. Arriving at the center symbolizes union with God. Once a pilgrim has this encounter, they are led back out into the world along the same path.

Walking a labyrinth is a slow, meditative practice. This is a way to embody your prayer. The mark is placed above for you to travel the path of the labyrinth with your finger as a small gesture of this larger practice. We hope that one day you might be able to encounter God as you walk through a physical prayer labyrinth.

Daily Prayer Project Lectionary

lectionary is a schedule of Bible readings that is meant to help Christians read the whole Bible over a period of time, emphasizing particular themes and narratives during particular seasons of the Christian year. The Daily Prayer Project follows the Sunday (and certain holy day) readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, the largest shared Bible-reading plan in North America. For most Monday–Saturdays, we follow our own Daily Prayer Project Lectionary, which moves through scripture in a slow, three-year cycle. The DPP Lectionary is broken down into three categories of readings from scripture: the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The Old Testament is broken

down into its traditional three parts: (1) Law & History, (2) Wisdom & Poetic Literature, and (3) the Prophets. The New Testament is also broken down into its traditional three sections: (1) the Four Gospels & Acts, (2) the Pauline Epistles, and (3) the General Epistles. Lectionaries are a time-tested tool from the history of the church for maintaining a steady "diet" from the Bible's different parts. They are specifically designed to lighten the daily load of reading and to help the reader focus in on smaller passages and particular books at a time. This facilitates slower, more meditative reading. Currently, the DPP is in Year B of the lectionary.

	YEAR A	YEAR B	YEAR C
The Psalms	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year
Old Testament	LAW & HISTORY Genesis-Leviticus WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Job PROPHETS Isaiah & Minor Prophets (Part I)	LAW & HISTORY Numbers-2 Samuel WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Ecclesiastes PROPHETS Jeremiah, Lamentations & Minor Prophets (Part II)	LAW & HISTORY 1 Kings-Esther WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Song of Songs PROPHETS Ezekiel & Minor Prophets (Part III)
New Testament	GOSPEL & ACTS Matthew, Mark & Acts PAULINE EPISTLES Romans-Titus GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews-Revelation	GOSPEL & ACTS Luke & Acts PAULINE EPISTLES Romans-Titus GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews-Revelation	GOSPEL & ACTS John & Acts PAULINE EPISTLES Romans-Titus GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews-Revelation

^{*}Sundays and holy days are from the Revised Common Lectionary

Methods & Elements

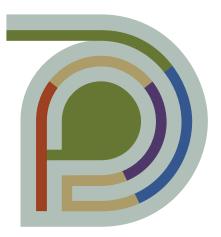
Each day of the LPP features morning and evening prayer liturgies framed by seven core elements. Everyone's style of praying is different because every person is different. Beyond that, Christian prayer varies widely across cultures and denominations. No single method can capture this. However, we hope you find within the LPP a rhythm that gives enough structure and freedom to facilitate a diverse community of prayer. Every element is offered as a guiding movement, not as a binding rule. You are encouraged to modify the liturgy based on the context of prayer. Consider establishing rhythms of prayer in your congregation, household, workplace, small groups, or other gatherings so that you might experience the formative reality of common prayer. If doing this liturgy individually, you are encouraged to take your time to soak it in. If doing it as a group, it may be best to alternate leading each element. Also, consider using different postures in prayer (standing, kneeling, lifted or open hands, lying prostrate, etc.) that fit your context.

CALL: There is an invitation always open to us. The Spirit of God calls us to come into the holy presence, and we respond to this welcome by entering in.

PSALM: The Psalms form the core language of prayer for the people of God and have done so for thousands of years. The Psalms give us language and postures of heart and body to express in the presence of God.

ADORATION: We were created to adore God, and in the place of worship we find the joy of this purpose. This adoration happens in both silence and song. We provide three to four songs per edition in the Songbook at the back. Full recordings and resources for these songs and others can be found at dailyprayerproject.com. You are also encouraged to sing songs from your own community.

LESSON: The scriptures give us the story of the Father's redemption of all things in the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER: We are led across praise, confession, and guided intercessory prayer by our family of faith all over the globe and throughout time. We receive every prayer as a gift as we put them on our own lips and in our own hearts. These prayers range from traditional prayers of the universal church to more modern and meditative prayers.

ABIDING: In response to what we have encountered in the first five elements, Abiding is an opportunity for deeper communion and self-reflection through meditating on the scriptures (*lectio divina*), considering the art in the gallery (*visio divina*), or using our bodies to engage historical Christian practices (*praxio divina*). Out of that place, we are also prompted to pray for the needs of others in different stations of life.

BENEDICTION: We close our time with a word of love and blessing over our lives from God himself, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Our journey of prayer is framed by the Call and the Benediction; God has the first and the last word over all things in our lives.



Adapting the LPP for Household Prayer

A Five-Element Method

e have often been asked how to adapt the Living Prayer Periodicals for household prayer, especially when that involves small children. It is an important question and one for which we want to provide some suggestions. These suggestions come after years of practice and experimenting within our own communities and families. The liturgies can be practiced once or twice a day, depending on your household rhythms. In my house, we practice communal prayer around the table once we finish dinner (almost!) every evening.

Disclaimer: If you have small children, prayer time will probably not always be peaceful and beautiful. These times might involve some chaos, disordered noise, fighting, arguing, silly laughter, etc. That's OK! Especially as children begin developing new habits and growing in their ability to pay attention, you are encouraged to let them grow in this way and to take your time growing in prayer together. There is no hurry, and things need not be perfect. The Lord is with you and your family and merely desires your presence. The important part is finding a simple rhythm and sticking to it because children (and adults) thrive on rhythms.

The following suggested method takes the seven core elements of the LPP liturgies and reduces them to five:

CALL
LESSON (Psalm, OT, or NT)
ABIDING
THE LORD'S PRAYER
BENEDICTION

Here are some practical suggestions for implementing this method:

- Before you begin to pray together, select what your Lesson reading is going to be. For example, if the scripture readings that day are Psalm 62, Leviticus 12, and Mark 10, then choose one or a section of one of those to attend to. It will probably be best for those with small children to begin small. If Mark 10 is chosen, then choose just one of the sections of that chapter.
- Before you begin to pray together, distribute the parts of the liturgy to different members of the household. In my household we have five people, so each member is responsible for one movement of the liturgy. If you have children who can read, they might relish the chance to read a different part each day. We keep a chart on the wall with the day, the five elements, and the person's name, giving each person a chance to do different parts throughout the week.
- If children cannot read, worry not! Children also love to do call-and-response, and this is how their language is formed. For my youngest son, who cannot read, his mother or I whisper the words of the call in his ear and he then gets to say them loudly for the family prayer time. He loves it, and yes, it is often adorable.
- Begin each time of prayer by taking some breaths together as a family (we often do three deep breaths), bringing stillness to your bodies, hearts, and minds.
- CALL: Again, children often love call-and-response! If
 necessary, teach them what their response line is going
 to be (the words in bold). Then someone should read
 the call and hear the response of the rest of the table.
- LESSON: Read the passage of scripture you selected before, or have one of the children read it (mine fight over this privilege . . .).
- ABIDING: This element can be really flexible as far as what is done and how long it takes. Here is a suggested flow:

- 1. You might begin by actually reading the italicized text in the Abiding section: "Pause at the start/end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God..." Or maybe start this time by singing a song together (e.g., a song from the back of the book or one from your church's worship service).
- 2. Then invite some reflection on the scripture reading you just heard together by asking simple questions: "What did you hear in that passage?" "What stuck out to you?" "What did Jesus do?" "What do you think it meant when it said ______?" You might get asked a question that you don't know the answer to, and that's perfectly fine! We are all always learning together.
- 3. From here you could pray one of the provided prayers in the LPP for that day, you could pray using one or more of the prompts, you could pray as the passage you heard leads you, or you could practice intercessory prayer.
- THE LORD'S PRAYER: Simply pray this together every day as Jesus taught us.
- BENEDICTION (feel free to call it a "blessing" or "God's good word"): When we practice this element, the person giving the benediction raises their hands and puts them outward while the rest around the table open their hands, palms up, in a posture of reception. Then the benediction is spoken and the time of prayer comes to an end.

This is merely a suggested method, and you are encouraged to modify, reduce, or expand it as fits the context of your household. Our prayer is that you can find your communal rhythm of communing with the Creator and experience the beauty and shalom that comes from praying together.

Let us pray, Joel Littlepage

Seasons of the Christian Year

t the Daily Prayer Project we practice the global and historical tradition of the Christian year (sometimes called the liturgical year or church year) as a communal rhythm that forms us—year after year, season after season—to be the people of God and the bearers of God's story. Human beings are creatures fundamentally and profoundly shaped by stories. Each of our lives will always be following someone's calendar and bearing someone's story, but the question is: whose story is it, and what kind of narrative it is telling? The Christian year is an ancient Christian tradition of ordering the 365-day calendar year around the life of Christ. Some dates and celebrations vary by Eastern and Western Christian traditions, but they are generally as follows: Advent,

Christmastide, Epiphany (also called Ordinary Time in some traditions), Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time.

The Daily Prayer Project crafts each edition of the LPP in accordance with the Christian year, with six editions per annual cycle. Most editions average eight weeks, except the Pentecost and Ordinary Time editions, which span about thirteen weeks each. Christmas and Epiphany (with Epiphanytide extending through the eve of Ash Wednesday) are combined into a single edition, and we celebrate the season of Pentecost from the day of Pentecost to the eve of the fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Each season has been assigned a liturgical color and seasonal icon.



ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 3-DECEMBER 2, 2023

In the season of Ordinary Time, the seeds that have been planted in the first half of the Christian year now germinate, grow, and bear fruit in the second half of the year. The great acts of salvation celebrated in Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost beckon us into the new life, and now we are called to "work out our salvation" (Phil. 2:12). This fruitful cultivation of the Spirit takes

place in the ordinary days and rhythms of our lives.

2022-2023 Christian Year



ADVENT Nov 27–Dec 24



EASTER Apr 9–May 27



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Dec 25-Feb 21



PENTECOST

May 28



Feb 22–Apr 8



ORDINARY TIME May 29–Dec 2







SUNDAY

Call

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

SEP 3

PS. 105:1-6, 23-26

EXOD. 3:1-15

MATT. 16:21-28: ROM. 12:9-21

SEP 10 PS 149

MATT, 18:15-20: ROM, 13:8-14

SEP 17

PS. 114

EXOD. 14:19-31 MATT. 18:21-35; ROM. 14:1-12

SFP 24

PS. 105:1-6, 37-45

EXOD. 16:2-15

MATT. 20:1-16: PHIL. 1:21-30

OCT 1

PS. 78

EXOD. 17:1-7

MATT, 21:23-32: PHIL, 2:1-13

EXOD, 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

MATT. 21:33-46; PHIL. 3:4B-14

OCT 15

PS. 106:1-6. 19-23

FXOD 32:1-14

MATT, 22:1-14: PHIL, 4:1-9

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

FXOD 12-1-14 SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

God, we know that if we had ten thousand tongues and the entire day, we couldn't thank you and praise you enough for who you are, and so, God, before we ask you for anything, we ask that right now, in the name of Jesus, that you remove anything in us that is not of you. God, we go through this life anxious, yet we know that if we look to you, we can find some peace. We ask, O God, that you speak to our situations, those that we have spoken out loud and those we hold so tightly that we can't release them. But God, we know that you are able to do exceedingly, abundantly above anything that we can think or ask, so God, speak, Lord! Speak! Move, Lord! Move like only you can, O God, and O God, we promise to thank

you. We promise to thank you through our tears, O God, through our moans, O God, through our yells, O God, through our sitting in silence. We promise to give you all the honor and the glory when you speak and move in our situations, God, and we will claim the victory and we will say that you did it, O God, not that we did it but that you did it, O God, that you spoke and you moved. Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus, we say it is so! Amen and amen! A prayer of the Rev. Marilyn Barnes, offered in a worship service of Third Street Bethel AME Church in Richmond, VA. Used with permission.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- · For a heart that hungers and thirsts for righteousness
- · For healing, transformation, and renewal in the place of worship
- · For those who do not yet profess faith in Jesus

THE LORD'S PRAYER See p. 18 for text.

Benediction

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Adapted from Colossians 3:15

SUNDAY

Call

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge.

Psalm 57:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O God our Father, by whose mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
We give into thy hands our unfinished tasks, our unresolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only that which thou dost bless will prosper. To thy great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that thou alone art our sure defender, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

An evening prayer from the Church of South India, taken from *The Oxford Book of Prayer*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:16



OCT 22

PS. 99 EXOD. 33:12-23 MATT. 22:15-22; 1 THESS. 1:1-10

OCT 29

PS. 90 DEUT. 34:1–12 MATT. 22:34–46: 1THESS. 2:1–8

NOV 5

PS. 107:1-7, 33-37 JOSH. 3:7-17 MATT. 23:1-12; 1 THESS. 2:9-13

NOV 12

PS. 78 JOSH. 24:1-3A, 14-25 MATT. 25:1-13:1THESS, 4:13-18

NOV 19

PS. 123 JUDG. 4:1-7

MATT. 25:14-30; 1THESS. 5:1-11

Christ the King

NOV 26

PS. 100

EZEK. 34:11-16, 20-24

MATT. 25:31-46: EPH. 1:15-23



MONDAY

Call

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 34:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

SEP 4 PS. 68 THE GLORIA Glory be to the Father, and to the 2 SAM, 21 Son, and to the Holy Spirit; GAL.6 As it was in the beginning, is now, and **SEP 11** ever shall be: world without end. Amen. PS 74 Adoration IFR 3

EPH.6 SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson PS. 80

SEP 18

COL. 2

SEP 25

PS. 86

JER. 15

OCT 2

PS. 92

IFR 21 1TIM. 2

OCT 9

PS 98 JER. 27

2 TIM. 2

OCT 16

PS.104

IFR 33 PHILEMON

1THESS, 4

JER.9 Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Book of Prayer

There is one comfort I have in this wilderness, and that is your sympathy. That which I endure today, you also faced. That which I fight against, you also fought. That which tempts me, also tempted you. Lord God, strengthen me against the tactics of my foe. Protect me from the snares of the devil. Keep me from falling. Make me stand. I require your presence and help. I do not want to give way to wrongdoing. Holy Spirit, fill me anew. Jesus, be my Strong Tower. Heavenly Father, hear my cry for help: enfold me in your love so that I may find satisfaction in you alone. I wait, God, in the power of your Holy Spirit, by faith. A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves, taken from Canyon Road: A

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- · For wisdom and discernment in how to spend your days
- · For those who are making a transition in life
- · For those who suffer from oppression and injustice

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. 1 Thessalonians 3:12

MONDAY

Call

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: All that we ought to have thought, and have not thought, All that we ought to have said, and have not said, All that we ought to have done, and have not done; All that we ought not to have thought, and yet have thought, All that we ought not to have spoken, and yet have spoken, All that we ought not to have done, and yet have done; For thoughts, words, and works, we pray, O God, for forgiveness. Adapted from an ancient Persian prayer, taken from Morning, Noon and Night

Assurance: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:11-12

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Bendiction

May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!



OCT 23

PS. 110 JER. 39 2 PET. 1

OCT 30

PS. 116 JER. 45 HEB. 3

NOV 6

PS. 119:65-96 JER. 50 HEB. 8

NOV 13

PS. 123 LAM. 4 REV. 1

NOV 20

PS. 129 ECCLES. 1 REV 7

NOV 27

PS. 135 ECCLES. 7 REV. 13

PRAYERS | PART 1



TUESDAY

Call

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalm 61:1-2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

SEP 5

PS. 69 2 SAM. 22 THE GLORIA EPH.1 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **SEP 12** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. PS 75 IFR 4 Adoration PHIL.1 SILENCE OR SONG SEP 19 Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59. PS. 81 Lesson JER. 10 COL.3 Read the New Testament passage of the day. Prayer **SEP 26** PS. 87 For the earth, and all that is part JER. 16 of it: We praise you, Father. 1THESS. 5 For rocks, signs of your strength and your steadfast love: We praise you, Father. ост з For shells, signs of your variety and your PS. 93 joy in creating this world, which you have given to our care: We praise you, Father. JER. 22 1TIM 3 For fruits and vegetables, signs of your providence to us: We praise you, Father. OCT 10 For the birds, signs of the freedom that is ours when we recognize that we are PS 99 JER. 28 your children: We praise you, Father. 2 TIM. 3 For the fish of the sea and animals that walk on the land, a reminder to us that the new earth is to be a place OCT 17 PS. 105 where your people live, work, and share in peace: We praise you, Father. IFR 34 1 PET. 1 For insects, their variety, spontaneity, and way of growth, signs of the dying and rising to new life that is the central message to us of your son Jesus: We praise you, Father. For the similarities of one group of people to another, signs of your desire that there is but one fold, and one shepherd: We praise you, Father. For the difference between one group of people and another expressed through the variety of language, tradition, custom, denomination, signs of the challenge of your word and your message to each person: We praise you, Father. For all of the people with whom we pray today: We praise you, Father. A litany of praise from Melanesia, adapted from With All God's People

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For remembrance of the tender mercies of the Lord
- For a heart that is slow to speak and slow to get angry
- · For those who live as widowers

THE LORD'S PRAYER

See p. 18 for text.

Benediction

May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

Psalm 115:15

TUESDAY

Call

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

Psalm 81:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

I thank you, Lord, that I had such a good meal today.

[That was such good soup from your peanuts. That was good meat from your buffaloes. That was hot pepper and a great yam.]

(You are invited to freely express gratitude to God for the food you have eaten today.)

O Lord, our stomachs are full. Our bodies have what they need. That is a new miracle every day. We thank you for it, and also for the good taste that lingers on our tongues. How refreshing your water was! With this meal you have given us the strength required for the day. Add to it your Spirit so that we may use it rightly.

Give us, besides food for our bodies, your heavenly food for our whole life. Praised be you, merciful God! Amen!

A prayer from a young Ghanian Christian, adapted from ILie on My~Mat~and~Pray

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Rest in this steadfast love now.

Adapted from 2 Thessalonians 3:5



OCT 24

PS. 111 JER. 40 2 PET 2

OCT 31

PS. 117 JER. 46 HEB. 4

NOV 7

PS. 119:97-128 JER. 51 HEB. 9

NOV 14 PS. 124

LAM. 5 REV. 2

NOV 21

PS. 130 ECCLES. 2 REV. 8

NOV 28

PS. 136 ECCLES. 8 REV. 14

PRAYERS | PART 1



WEDNESDAY

Call

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Revelation 19:6b-7a

Psalm

	i Saiiii
SEP 6	Read the Psalm of the day.
PS. 70	
2 SAM. 23	THE GLORIA
EPH. 2	Glory be to the Father, and to the
	Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
SEP 13	As it was in the beginning, is now, and
PS. 76	ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
JER.5	
PHIL. 2	Adoration
	SILENCE OR SONG
SEP 20	Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.
PS. 82	
JER. 11	Lesson
COL.4	Read the Old Testament passage of the day.
SEP 27	Prayer
PS. 88	Confession: Fix me, Jesus, fix me.
JER. 17	Fix me so that I can walk on
2 THESS. 1	a little while longer.
	Fix me so that I can pray on
OCT 4	just a little bit harder.
PS. 94	Fix me so that I can sing on
JER. 23	just a little bit louder.
1TIM. 4	Fix me so that I can go on despite the pair
	the fear, the doubt, and yes, the anger.
OCT 11	I ask not that you take this cross from me,
PS. 100	only that you give me the strength
JER. 29	to continue carrying it onward
2 TIM. 4	'til my dying day.
	Oh, fix me, Jesus, fix me.
OCT 18	"Fix Me, Jesus, Fix Me," an African American spiritual
PS.106	•
JER. 35	Assurance: I am sure of this, that he who
1 PET. 2	began a good work in you will bring it to

completion at the day of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:6*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a deep and abiding awareness of the presence of Jesus
- For practices and habits that show others the love of Christ
- For all involved in the foster care and adoption system

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life, and may you dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Adapted from Psalm 23:6

22

WEDNESDAY

Call

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

As you prepare for this time, think of an individual whom you can pray for. Bring them before God now, using this form of prayer.

We humbly ask you, O Lord: open your heavens; from there, we ask you to rain your gifts upon [Name].
Put forth your hand and touch [his/her] head.
May [he/she] feel the touch of your hand, and receive the joy of the Holy Spirit, that [he/she] may remain blessed for evermore. Amen.

A prayer of Æthelwold (904–984) of Winchester, England, taken from *The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incorporated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26



OCT 25

PS, 112

JER. 41

2 PET. 3

All Saints' Day

NOV 1

PS. 34

1JOHN 3:1–3 (in lieu of OT)
REV. 7:9–17

NOV 8

PS. 119:129-76

JER. 52

HEB.10

NOV 15

PS. 125

JON.1

REV.3

NOV 22

PS. 131 ECCLES 3

REV. 9

NOV 29

PS. 137

ECCLES. 9

REV. 15

PRAYERS | PART 1









MEDITATION

"Play with me, Mommy!"

I hear this a lot. Right after the earnest request, one of my boys will lead me by the hand toward their block tower, or superhero capes, or plastic doctor play set. In recent years, I've battled more than my share of Beyblades, lost many Nerf wars, and found many great spots for hide-and-seek. Play is the work of childhood, a way for kids to acquire skills and make sense of the world around them. But what about adults? Does play have value in our own lives?

Just as God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, we have a model for resting and delighting in God's creation. God commanded us to keep the Sabbath (Exod. 20:8-11), a day set aside for rest. But rest is not just the cessation of all work. It's an invitation to spend time with God, spend time with the people we love, and engage in playful delight. It reminds me of what the fathers of the church called "holy leisure." On this concept, Thomas Merton suggested, "Now the Fathers of the Church well understood the importance of a certain 'holy leisure'-otium sanctum. We cannot give ourselves to spiritual things if we are always swept off our feet by a multitude of external activities."

I imagine we all can relate to that feeling of being swept off our feet "by a multitude of external activities." That's why incorporating pockets of play and rest into our daily rhythms can be a spiritual practice. I love how June Mack Maffin likens play to prayer: "Like prayer, laughter and play can be healing to the body, mind and soul. Laughter and play are holy things. When we play, we leave behind the daily stressors and allow our spirit to breathe and re-create."

Dr. Stuart Brown, psychiatrist and founder of the National Institute of Play, defines play as any activity that brings a sense of pleasure and enjoyment, done for its own sake rather than for any practical purpose or outcome. For this reason, play can take many forms: surfing, geocaching, reading, rollerblading, video games, painting, movies, board games, even flirting and daydreaming!

In July 2021, I took a month off from writing and took advantage of the summer pause in my graduate studies. I had a lot of extra time in which to rest and play. At first, I couldn't shake the feeling that I should be doing something productive. After the intensive years of raising two young boys very close in age and balancing part-time work for a nonprofit, doing something purely for the fun of it didn't come naturally anymore. I fell into my default leisure activity and read fourteen books over the course of a few weeks. I also went hiking. I played cards and board games with my family. I soaked up the sun by the lake and felt the sand between my toes.

By the end of the month, I was more spiritually refreshed, more rested, and a more creative person. There's no denying that playing enriches the quality of my life. But—and here's the rub—not every month is a vacation. We're heading into a busy fall season full of work and other adult responsibilities that won't disappear just because we want to play. So how can we incorporate more play into our daily routines for the sake of our spiritual health?

Translate your childhood play. Dr. Stuart Brown recommends taking an inventory of activities you enjoyed as a child and reintegrating them into your life as an adult. Did you used to love physical competition? Join a sports league! Were you a tree climber? Consider hiking or mountain climbing. Did you love to make stuff? Learn a new craft, like embroidery or pottery. Did you put on plays as a child? Consider joining your city's community theater. Did you like to get your hands dirty? Try a new recipe.

I've recently started putting together one-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzles. It gets me away from my computer screen and provides me a way to think and daydream while doing something interesting. Sometimes I listen to an audiobook while I snap the pieces into place. In doing so, I'm combining two of my childhood loves: creating and reading.

Be prepared to play. In times of boredom, we're quick to reach for the quickest form of entertainment: our smartphones. While there's nothing inherently wrong with scrolling through our favorite social media app, it rarely gives us the mental rest or soul-filling satisfaction that we crave. Consider instead actually calling a

friend to catch up. Or read a few pages from an e-book on your phone instead of reading Instagram captions.

Make a list of activities that bring you joy and keep the list handy for whenever you have ten minutes, an hour, or an afternoon to yourself. Keep a list of books you want to read next, comedy specials you want to watch, out-of-your-comfort-zone activities you've always wanted to try. You're more likely to stop yourself from wasting precious downtime in the black hole of social media if you have a ready list of fun activities to turn to instead.

Carve out intentional time to play.

In our busy lives, play may have to be scheduled on our calendar if we're going to intentionally engage in it. So, contact your babysitter and schedule that concert. Make plans for mini golf with a friend. Plan to take a hike with your camera or clear the card table to set up a puzzle. Create blank space on a Sunday afternoon and guard it fiercely. Know what brings you joy and make a habit of setting aside special time each week for it.

Sarah K. Butterfield is an author, speaker, and ministry leader with a heart for empowering others to grow deeper in their faith and be intentional with their time. She and her husband and two boys live in San Diego, where she writes regularly at www.sarahkbutterfield.com.

28 practices





MEDITATION

Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that? Why, heaven and earth shout to you: "God made me!" —Saint Augustine, Sermon 126.6

Last spring I started going on weekly hikes. These were solo adventures in the forests and along the waterways in the Piscataway lands in and around Washington, DC. These hikes were not for exercise or accomplishment but for slowing down, attending, and reveling in wild awe. I wanted to notice with every sense. In the breeze I smelled Japanese honeysuckle and the loam of fallen leaves on wet soil. I listened to the cardinal's triplet song and the croak of pickerel frogs. I watched double-crested cormorants jump and soar from rocky cliffs off the Potomac River and five-lined skinks scurry under rocks. I ran my hands across the bark of Virginia pines and rubbed grainy trail soil on my face and splashed it with cold creek water, tasting the silt that met my lips. This sort of slow and deliberate engagement with nature became a weekly practice of prayer.

Even before the biblical text was written, the book not written in ink has long been a source for spiritual practices of meditation and contemplation. Nature is the first monastery where the desert mothers and fathers learned a practice of prayer. Earth gives us many wild windows through which to enter prayer. We see creation as the launching place for considering the display of God's creative power (Gen. 1), God's incomprehensible wisdom (Job 38–42), and how creation speaks God's glory in law (Ps. 19). Jesus himself, in parables and the Beatitudes, tells us that nature, our older created sibling, as it were, has no need for worry or self-actualization (Matt. 6:25–34). The northern maidenhair fern, the eastern bluebird, and the American sycamore exist as they are meant to be. They demonstrate and bear witness to yielding and surrendering to the continual unfolding of God's loving presence and careful engagement with the world. John Klassen, OSB, quoted in Dr. Steven Chase's book *Nature as Spiritual Practice*, wrote:

Jesus shows a wonderful attitude toward created things by using water, bread, fish, wine, light, creatures such as birds of the air, foxes, seed and mud. The parables show that Jesus assumed the worth of the created universe, the dependability of nature, the recurrence of the seasons, the normal pattern of sowing and harvesting, of planting a vineyard and caring for it, of seeing the clouds and counting on the rain. The natural world is the stage where the reign of God is enacted, the place where faith in God with all of its dimensions is lived out.

Earth is not merely an artifact of God's creative power but an instrument of aliveness through which God speaks. As David indicates in Psalm 19, God's ways are written in the skies, they are alive in the firmament, they are laid out in the course of the sun. When we listen to nature speak, we can know how to better live in loving mutuality and reciprocity with all that God has made.

EXPLORATION

The practice of *terra divina* (Latin for "sacred earth") is going back to our first teacher, using the book of nature as a source for and invitation to prayer. Here are some suggested guidelines:

Lectio. Go outside for a walk or a hike. Read the text of the landscape. Notice the clouds, the trees, the rocks, the ants. What captures your attention? If this is difficult, bring your body into the practice by clenching your fists, or even your whole body. Upon release, what do you notice first? Perhaps it is a birdsong, or the way the breeze moves across your skin, or the way the sun dapples the ground beneath the trees.

Meditatio. Reflect, allowing your faculties, reason, imagination, memory, and emotions to engage with this reading. This may bring up an association or a memory. You may be delighted, confused, or angered. Discover why. There is a gift here.

Oratio. If feelings surface that want to become prayer, take the invitation. Sit with them, let

them move through you, carrying whatever emerges to God silently or aloud. If nothing comes up, that's OK. You can move on. There is no need for performance.

Contemplatio. Be still for a few minutes in silence, resting in God's loving presence.

Like all spiritual practice, terra divina can build the muscle of noticing the Holy Spirit's movement in our own interior landscape. A practice of devotionally reading the book of nature can remind us of our own loveliness, or prompt us to lament our lack of careful engagement, or move us to reverent doxology.

Let this be a gentle invitation to wonder at the wild awe speaking God's loving presence. May we take our place in the continuum of creation with prayers of terra divina contributing to the liturgy of praise from every "hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light."

Lauren Shea Little is an artist, writer, and spiritual director on Piscataway lands called Washington, DC. She is mother to two sons and operates Atlas Minor Design Studio, collaborating with the DPP. You can read more of her writing at listeningdarkly.substack.com.





MEDITATION

The absence of good words is often just as damaging as the presence of bad ones. Neglect and abuse are twin brothers of ruin to the human heart. Between this chasm stands the practice of blessing. Blessing is the act of presenting beautiful words to another's heart and willing their good in God. Every human heart thirsts for the blessing, but precious few receive it.

In such an age of distraction, individualism, materialism, and disconnection, blessing is a practice that has withered away. Intentional words of blessing shared with another to affirm their unique dignity and pray for a future of flourishing have been replaced by either shaming and denigration on the one hand, or silence and absence on the other.

The American jazz artist Gregory Porter poignantly sings, "We are like children / We're painted on canvases / Picking up shades as we go / We start off with gesso / Brushed on by people we know / Watch your technique as you go" ("Painted on Canvas," from the album *Be Good*). All our stories have been painted by the words we've received. What I find remarkable in my own life is that the memories I can still recall with the most vivid detail fall into two categories: I can still vividly remember when I was "cursed" through ridicule or shame; and I can quickly call to mind the times when others looked me in the eyes and gave me a word of blessing over what I

was uniquely gifted for and what they saw for my life's path. Those morsels of blessing still serve as daily bread to nurture my encouragement and hope amid the discouragement and confusion of life. We are all meant to live as agents of healing through our practice of blessing others.

But as Dallas Willard reminds in his book *Living in Christ's Presence*: A blessing "isn't just words. It's the actual putting forth of your will for the good of another person. It always involves God, because when you will the good of another person, you realize only God is capable of bringing that. So we naturally say, 'God bless you.'"

Blessing runs right through the scriptures of the Christian faith, so often from the lips of the Maker. From "And God saw that it was good . . . and . . . blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply . . ." (Gen. 1:21–22) to the word to Abraham, "I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Gen. 12:2), to the word to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11), to the consummate blessing awaiting all the beloved: "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:4–5). To bless is to imitate God, whose words are the fountain of blessing and life.

EXPLORATION

How do you practice blessing?

Pray and Listen. What are the wonders of this particular person? In the place of prayer, bring a person before the presence of the Maker and ask God to show you the unique glory of that person. Ponder and listen. Pray to the Lord for direction in this person's life, and bring your own will to bear for the good of that person: "God, lead them in this way...," "Lord, provide this for them..."

Name the Glory. If possible, find a time to make face-to-face connection with that person, though written communication can also serve as a powerful means of blessing. Tell the person the unique, glorious beauty that you see in their life. Not only what they do or contribute to the world, but who they are in their character and ways.

Bless. Finally, present beautiful words of blessing. Let the person know how you have prayed for them and what good you will on their behalf in God's presence. A formal blessing in scripture often features the optative form of grammar, the language of "may": "May the LORD be with you" (1 Sam. 20:13), "may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thess. 3:12). In that same way, a blessing over another is a prayer for their future of flourishing in the presence and power of the Lord.

Pray and listen. Name the glory. Bless.

practices 33



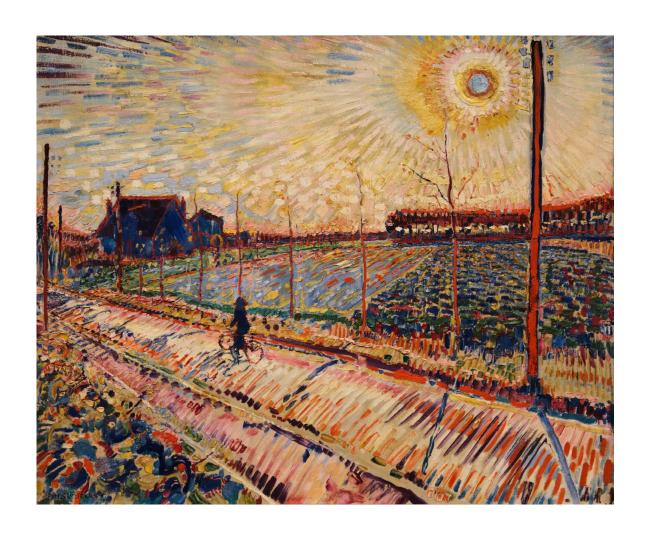
PHOTO: VICTORIA EMILY JONES

Visitations: Gifts; A Slight Lapse of Purpose; Hand Stands; Yea; Majorette

Joseph Kinnebrew, 1994–97 Cast iron, figures 54 to 69 inches high Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan



GALLERY



Laren Landscape with October Sun Jan Sluijters, 1910

Jan Sluijters, 1910 Oil on canvas, 23 × 28½ in. Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam, Netherlands

36 GALLERY

LAREN LANDSCAPE WITH OCTOBER SUN

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God," wrote the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. "It will flame out, like shining from shook foil."

This electric presence of the Divine in nature can be sensed in *Laren Landscape with October Sun* by the Dutch modernist artist Jan Sluijters (pronounced *yon SLY-ters*) (1881–1957). Painted in Laren in North Holland, it shows a bicyclist pedaling down a rural, tree-lined road in autumn, past fields and farmhouse, the sun's rays spilling out everywhere and washing the world in vibrant color. The effects of light was the main preoccupation of those who, like Sluijters, painted in the late-impressionist style known as luminism. How would you describe the light in this painting? What impressions does it capture?

To become more attuned to the effects of light in your own environment, take a stroll (or a bike ride!) and observe how the sunlight illuminates and plays upon certain objects, natural or otherwise. Notice the angle at which it falls, its degree of intensity, the quality of its movement, its relationship to shadow. You can even do this exercise in your living room. For different results, make your observations in different seasons of the year and at different hours of the day. Bask in the ordinary wonders of a world lit by a giant blazing orb suspended in space!

TABERNACIE

From Easter 2008 through Yom Kippur 2009, installation artist Denise Kufus Weyhrich collected unwashed cups from weekly Communions at St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, California, and a few neighboring churches, leaving them out to dry in her studio. Over that year and a half when they accumulated, the room was filled with the fragrance of wine, she said.

Once she had collected seventy thousand cups into stacks—seven is the number of completion or perfection in Judaism and Christianity—she arranged the stacks on a plexiglass disc and bound them together with six silver ribbons, like a sheaf of wheat. The seventh ribbon she threaded through all the cups and up to the ceiling, which could be read as the love of God coming down and through the people, uniting them, and/or the people's thanksgiving going up to God through this ritual act of celebrating the Eucharist. At the table, God offers us his very self, and we respond with gratitude.

Each one of those wine-stained cups represents a person being fed by the body and blood of Christ. Their collective presentation is a beautiful picture of the church—gathered, connected, its members leaning on one another and reaching up—and of God's ongoing bestowal of grace and forgiveness. Weyhrich named the piece *Tabernacle*, the place where God dwells.



DETAIL

Tabernacle

Denise Weyhrich, 2010
70,000 used Communion cups, 7 silver ribbons, plexiglass base, 42 × 42 in.
Sasse Museum of Art, Upland, California



PHOTO: JEFF LEFEVER



BRANCHES AND VINES QUILT

Leafy vines and branches dotted with flowers and fruits decorate this quilt by Ernestine Eberhardt Zaumseil (1828–1904) of Pekin, Illinois. She likely traced leaves from actual trees and vines to serve as patterns for her appliquéd designs. Under the central plant, three animals find shelter.

Ordinary Time is generally described as a time of spiritual growth and maturation, as the seeds that God has planted in us during the other seasons of the church year flourish into verdant new life. A guiding concept in the writings of the medieval German nun Hildegard of Bingen is *viriditas*—greenness, vitality, freshness, fecundity. She uses the word to refer to the greening power of God that is in every living thing, an expression of divine creativity at work in the world, including the inner and outer lives of humans.

What viriditas have you experienced this season? Or if greenness has been eluding you lately, what one small thing might you do to cultivate it?

Branches and Vines Quilt

Ernestine Eberhardt Zaumseil, ca. 1875 Cotton, silk, and wool, 88 × 86 in. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

Jeremiah was called by God to prophesy to Judah the coming destruction of Jerusalem as judgment for their unfaithfulness and to summon them to repentance. The Old Testament book that bears Jeremiah's name is an anthology of writings from his lifetime of ministry, which extended from the reign of King Josiah through multiple deportations of Judeans to Babylon and Jerusalem's final fall in 586 BCE to his own exile to Egypt.

Known as the Weeping Prophet, Jeremiah keenly felt the suffering of his people, as expressed in anguished passages such as this:

For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

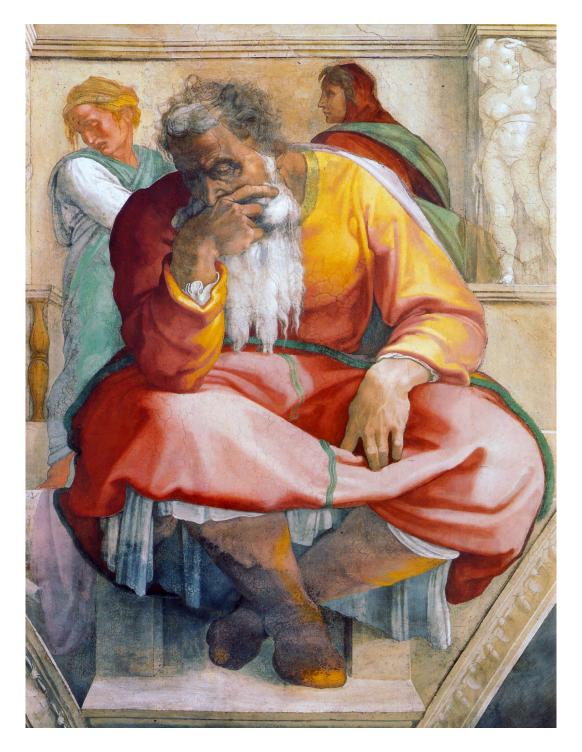
(Jer. 8:21–9:1)

In the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo painted the aged prophet Jeremiah seated in silent lament over the sins of Judah and the fate wrought by those sins. He's one of seven biblical prophets who appear along the perimeter of the chapel's 133-foot-long ceiling. Behind Jeremiah are two female figures. Perhaps one of them is Rachel, a long-since-dead matriarch of Israel whose name Jeremiah invokes from the grave to express the depths of his people's grief: he says she "weep[s] for her children" and "refuses to be comforted" (31:15).

But Jeremiah is not all tears. He also foretells a glorious return from exile (31:1–14, 17, 23–24) and a new covenant written on people's hearts (31:31–34).

The Prophet Jeremiah

Michelangelo Buonarroti, ca. 1510–12 Fresco, 150 × 150 in. Sistine Chapel, Vatican Museums, Vatican City









THURSDAY

Call

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you

Psalm 63:3

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

SEP 7	
PS. 71	THE GLORIA
2 SAM. 24	Glory be to the Father, and to the
EPH. 3	Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
	As it was in the beginning, is now, and
SEP 14	ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
PS. 77	
JER.6	Adoration
PHIL.3	SILENCE OR SONG
	Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.
SEP 21	
PS. 83	Lesson
JER.12	Read the New Testament passage of the day.
THESS.1	_
	Prayer
SEP 28	Wisdomkeeper,
PS. 89	Who else would we walk the road with?
JER. 18	You have the words that give the
THESS. 2	life of the world to come,
	that never fades away,
OCT 5	full of beauty and harmony.
PS. 95	We have come to know and trust in you
JER. 24	As the Holy One from the Great Spirit.
1TIM. 5	A prayer adapted from the statement of Peter found in
	John 6:68, taken from the First Nations Version of the New
OCT 12	Testament
PS. 101	
JER. 30	Abiding
TITUS 1	LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living

scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart rooted in the gentle compassion of Jesus
- For those who work in waste management
- · For those who work as elected officials

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May your heart be sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Adapted from Romans 8:38-39

OCT 19

PS. 107

JER. 36

1 PET. 3

DIVINA

THURSDAY

Call

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Brabé Nouba ya dji Brabé Khobé ya dji O kho nou ya dji O kho nou O kho nou yadji Khobé Lo kaoudji gouto Lo k'bidji gouto Khobé iré o Our Father God Our Father Lord

Hear our cries Please hear

Hear our crying, Lord

We are wandering

With no place for sleep

Lord, hear us

A prayer in the Sara language, adapted from the song "Brabé" by Djasra Ratébaye of Chad. See p. 54 for the sheet music and recording of this song.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace! Psalm 29:11



OCT 26

PS. 113 JER. 42

JUDE

NOV 2

PS. 118

JER. 47 HEB. 5

NOV 9

PS. 120 LAM. 1

HEB.11

NOV 16

PS. 126 JON. 2

REV.4

NOV 23

PS. 132 ECCLES. 4

REV. 10

NOV 30

ECCLES. 10

PS. 138 REV. 16



FRIDAY

Call

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

Psalm 42:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

SEP 8 THE GLORIA Glory be to the Father, and to the PS. 72 Son, and to the Holy Spirit; JER.1 EPH. 4 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. SEP 15 Adoration PS 78 IFR 7 SILENCE OR SONG PHIL.4 Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59. Lesson SEP 22 PS. 84 Read the Old Testament passage of the day. JER. 13 Prayer 1THESS. 2 The following prayer is written for the occasion of preparing for a hard SEP 29 conversation with a friend. The need for hard conversations is a reg-PS. 90 ular, ordinary part of life, but our experience with such conversations JER. 19 is often challenging or overwhelming. You are encouraged to let this 2THESS.3 prayer accompany you through this experience in your life or in intercession for another who must move through a difficult conversation. OCT 6 PS 96 O Lord, you who promise to be with me always, be with me in this conversation, IFR 25 1TIM 6 I pray, that your Spirit might make me brave, wise, and humble, that I might speak in love and listen in love, and that OCT 13

we both might hear and heed the truth

that would set us equally free, so that we

might experience your life-giving power this day. We pray this in the gracious

"A Prayer before a Hard Conversation with a Friend" by W.

and almighty name of Jesus. Amen.

David O. Taylor, taken from Prayers for the Pilgrimage

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For peace amid an anxious and violent world
- For those who work in vocational ministry
- For those who suffer from addiction, and those who support them

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May grace be multiplied to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from Galatians 1:3-5

48

PS 102

JER. 31

TITUS 2

OCT 20

PS 108

IFR 37

1 PET. 4

FRIDAY

Call

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

May the Eternal God bless my city, guard it against all evil, guide it in wisdom.

May he bless all who work in it, and keep them faithful and safe in their work.

May the people of this city be united and God-fearing, happy and prosperous, preserving the good heritage of the past and building the future on foundations of righteousness and love.

And all glory be to the Eternal God, the Lord of the Worlds, the Compassionate and Merciful, the Ruler of History, and the lover of men and women, the God and Father of Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen!

A blessing composed by the Anglican archbishop of Jerusalem and pronounced by Brian de Saram as provost of All Saints' Cathedral in Cairo on All Saints' Day 1972. Adapted from *Morning, Noon and Night*.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

Speak this word to your soul tonight: "Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you." May you rest now in the bountiful provision of God.

Adapted from Psalm 116:7



OCT 27

PS. 114 JER. 43 HEB. 1

NOV 3

PS. 119:1-32 JER. 48 HEB. 6

NOV 10

PS. 121 LAM. 2 HEB. 12

NOV 17

PS. 127 JON. 3 REV. 5

NOV 24

PS. 133 ECCLES. 5 REV. 11

DEC 1

PS. 139 ECCLES. 11 REV. 17



SATURDAY

Call

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

Psalm 130:1-2

Read the Psalm of the day.

Psalm

SEP 9

F3.73	
JER. 2	THE GLORIA
EPH.5	Glory be to the Father, and to the
	Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
SEP 16	As it was in the beginning, is now, and
PS. 79	ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
JER.8	
COL.1	Adoration
	SILENCE OR SONG
SEP 23	Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.
PS. 85	
JER.14	Lesson
1THESS. 3	Read the New Testament passage of the day.
SEP 30	CREED
PS. 91	We hold the faith which the church has
JER. 20	ever held in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer
1TIM.1	of the world, in whom alone we are saved
	by grace through faith, and in accordance
OCT 7	with the revelation of God which he made,
PS. 97	being himself God incarnate, we worship
JER. 26	one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2 TIM. 1	We accept the Holy Scriptures of the Old
	Testament and the New Testament as the
OCT 14	inspired word of God, as containing all
PS.103	things necessary to salvation, and as the
JER. 32	supreme and decisive standard of faith,
TITUS 3	and acknowledge that the church must
	always be ready to correct and reform itself
OCT 21	in accordance with the teaching of those
PS. 109	Scriptures as the Holy Spirit shall reveal it.

From the Church of North India and Pakistan

Prayer

The following prayer utilizes a method called "breath prayer." Slow, deep breathing calms the mind and body, and the prayer turns us toward God. Consider utilizing the forms below and creating your own breath prayers in this season of Ordinary Time.

I love you, O Lord, (*inhale*) my strength. (*exhale*)

Show me, O Lord, (inhale) the path of life. (exhale)
Description and prayer adapted from All Will Be Well

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- · For a calm and grateful heart
- For a resistance to the love of money and for generosity in all of life
- For the flourishing of people in your place from the womb to the tomb

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May peace be multiplied to all of you who are in Christ.

Adapted from 1 Peter 5:14

IFR 38

1 PET. 5

SATURDAY

Call

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Psalm 141:2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 53-59.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

Assurance: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review this past week with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the week and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow and the beginning of a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,

On the seventh day you rested and were refreshed. Please help me now to enter into the rest of your Sabbath,

That I may cease from my work
And delight in your care over my life
Both now and forever,
Amen.

Benediction

Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised, for these eyes of ours have seen the savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. 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.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), based on Luke 2:29-32



OCT 28

PS. 115 JER. 44 HEB. 2

NOV 4

PS. 119:33-64 JER. 49 HEB. 7

NOV 11

PS. 122 LAM. 3 HEB. 13

NOV 18

PS. 128 JON. 4 REV. 6

NOV 25

PS. 134 ECCLES. 6 REV. 12

DEC 2

PS. 140 ECCLES. 12 REV. 18





BRABÉ









Chorus:
Brabé Nouba ya dji
Brabé Khobé ya dji
O kho nou ya dji

O kho nou ya dji

Khobé

Verse: Lo kaoudji gouto Lo k'bidji gouto Khobé iré o

Chorus:
Our Father God
Our Father Lord
Hear our cries
Please hear
Hear our crying

Lord

Translation:

Verse:

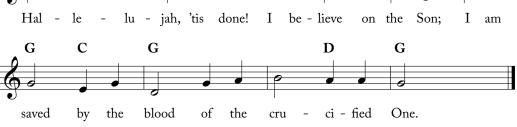
We are wandering
With no place for sleep
Lord, hear us

Words and music by Djasra Ratébaye of Chad. The text is in the Sara language. ©2000 Djasra Ratébaye. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

HALLELUJAH, 'TIS DONE!



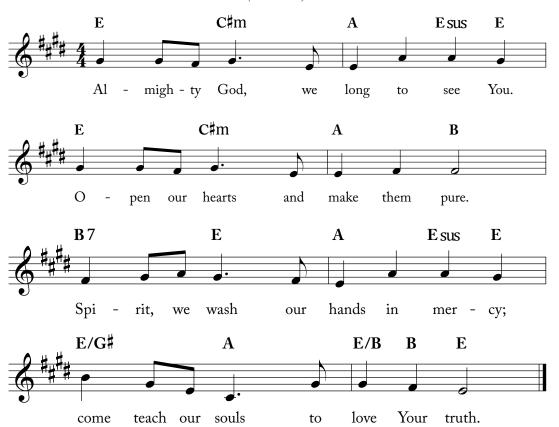




WE LONG TO SEE YOU



(Psalm 24)



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH





For the beau-ty of the earth,
For the won-der of each hour,
For the joy of ear and eye,
For Thy-self, best gift di-vine,

for the glo - ry of the skies, of the day and of the night, for the heart and mind's de-light, to the world so free - ly giv'n,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies: hill and vale and tree and flower. sun and moon and stars of light: for the my - stic har - mon - y link - ing sense to sound and sight: for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heav'n:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise!

songbook 57





(Who Will Separate Me from the Love of God?)



58 songbook

Translation:

1. Who will separate me from the love of God? Who can touch me while I am hidden in Christ? If God is the One who justifies, who can condemn me? Christ is my advocate, who can accuse me?

Chorus:

For those whom God loves, everything works for good; This is my consolation, this is what sustains me.

- 2. Everything that happens in my life here Is working for my good, because he cares for me. In my difficult trials, God is always faithful to me. Why, then, do I doubt? I rest in him.
- 3. Plagues and death surround me; God, who is love, ordained my luck. Not a single arrow can bring me harm; So long as he doesn't allow it, it will not reach me.

SONGBOOK 59



The Daily Prayer Project's Living Prayer Periodicals feature daily morning and evening prayer guides for the week. These guides are used throughout the current season of the Christian year. Their simplicity, brevity, and repetition facilitates transformative patterns of prayer in everyday life.



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