

## Some thoughts to start...

Engaging in the practice of faith is not always easy. For some people, sitting down and having an open, in-depth chat with God is not difficult. For many of us, however, it is.

What we're trying to do here is to give people a resource – to help them in their thinking about scripture, and in the practice of personal prayer.

Everything written here is simply a *suggestion*. If you find other practices more helpful, please use them!

Find a bible and head to a place you won't be disturbed. Take a few moments to sit quietly. In that quiet moment you might want to say to God, "What would you like me to hear today?"

Read each of the scriptures. Some people prefer to read silently, while others find it more helpful to read out loud. Take a few moments to reflect on what you've heard. (If you would like, the 'reflection' section is there to help start you off.)

Finally, take a few moments to talk with God. The printed prayer is there as a guide, but there may be other things you want to share. Chat, as openly and honestly as you can. Then, through the day, listen for God's response.

**This resource was initiated by St. Andrew's Haney United Church, Maple Ridge, BC.**

The suggested scripture readings are based on the Consultation on Common Text's *Daily Lectionary*.

If you'd like to share some thoughts about what you've read, head over to the 'chat space' at [www.standrewsuc.com](http://www.standrewsuc.com)

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### ST. ANDREW'S HANEY UNITED CHURCH

## Daily Scripture and Prayer Time

(October 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

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## Monday

### Scripture:

- Jeremiah 32.16-35
- Psalm 119.49-56
- Revelation 3.14-22

### Reflection:

John's seven 'letters' to the 'churches' contain an almost equal mixture of blame and praise, comfort and challenge, warning and solace. This part of the message to the Laodicean church scolds them for being "neither cold nor hot...you are lukewarm!"

I wonder how often the same could be said about me/you? About my/your church? About the way we go about 'being' the church together in our neighbourhoods. Are we too often just 'lukewarm'?

### Prayer:

Heat me up when I need it, I pray. Cool me down some when you know that's what I require, Animating God. Be with me when I'm in that 'lukewarm zone.' Reach out to me and pull me out – one way or another – I pray, into a more radical, wilder relationship with you and your world.

Today, I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,  
with your love,  
and in Christ's name, I pray.

## Tuesday

### Scripture:

- Jeremiah 32.36-44
- Psalm 119.49-56
- James 5.1-6

### Reflection:

There are certainly some echoes here from the other part of yesterday's passage - John's warning to Laodicea - concerning the real 'poverty' that results from greed. So often the Bible equates the lust for material wealth and the hoarding of possessions to 'rusting and rotting to death.' It's a harsh message for us, who live in such luxury, to hear. How can we receive this (repeated) message in a way that might allow us to live in freedom from rusting to death?

### Prayer:

When my 'stuff' gets in the way...When there's too much clutter between me and the people I love...When I put up barricades between my heart and yours...When I hide myself from my neighbours behind all my things...Help me unburden. Bring the walls down. Unclutter me, I pray. Open my life to the richness that can only come when Love is allowed in.

Today, I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,  
with your love,  
and in Christ's name, I pray.

## Wednesday

### Scripture:

- Jeremiah 33.1-13
- Psalm 119.49-56
- Matthew 19.16-22

### Reflection:

Psalms 119 is by far the longest in the Psalter. It's a complex and brilliant 'acrostic' poem. The psalm is divided into twenty-two sections, each of which contains eight verses beginning with, sequentially, the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This part, for the letter 'Zayin,' begins and ends with a reference to 'remembering.' The passage opens with a prayer - that God remember the psalmist and provide comfort in the midst of trouble. The section is book-ended with the poet's response to God's remembering: "I remember your name in the night, too, O God..."

### Prayer:

Thank you, Gracious and Loving God, for remembering me. When I'm feeling lonely, when I'm ill and when I'm in pain, you are always there, comforting and surrounding me with love. Thank you for your promises, your Word, your Law, all of which bring Life.

Today I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love.

For your grace,  
with your love,  
and in Christ's name, I pray.

## Thursday

### Scripture:

- Jeremiah 52.1-11
- Lamentations 3.19-26
- Revelation 2.8-11

### Reflection:

The fall of Judah has begun - the siege of Jerusalem and exile of its people. Jeremiah, along with other prophetic voices, warned of the consequences that would come as a result of repeatedly straying away from God. It's a particularly bleak and painful part of the story of God's People. What Jeremiah's people couldn't 'see' has been gruesomely mirrored in the violent blinding of their king. (see also: Ezekiel 12:13)

### Prayer:

Sometimes, Holy Vision, my sight is limited to what 'I' think is best for 'me.' Sometimes, I know that I live in a world that's blurred to how you must see things. Be my vision when mine fails me and I turn away. Open my eyes to the possibilities that come into focus when living lives centred in you.

Today, I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,  
with your love,  
and in Christ's name, I pray.

## Friday

### Scripture:

- Jeremiah 52.12-30
- Lamentations 3.19-26
- Revelation 2.12-29

### Reflection:

Well, now I can't get the hymn out of my head! Can you? "Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator..." The dangerous places we considered yesterday have turned into those in which hope grows. God does not change. (see also: Malachi 3: 6) In order for God to be "new every morning," however, [Morning by morning new mercies I see] (see also: Isaiah 33:2) we need to expand the statement. God's goodness (ie. 'Godness') is unailing! It never changes! "Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!"

### Prayer:

I praise you, unailing One, for your ability to be 'you' so faithfully. For your loving-kindness to be there for me every morning as my life unfolds in different directions. Thank you for coming with me, and for going with others, down the different roads we all travel. Thank you for not changing in that your Love changes with us, providing hope for all of our mornings, days and nights.

Today, I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,  
with your love,  
and in Christ's name, I pray.

## Saturday

### Scripture:

- Lamentations 1.7-15
- Lamentations 3.19-26
- Matthew 20.29-34

### Reflection:

Finally...sight restored at last! The two blind people (why two?) by the roadside wouldn't be silenced. They kept calling out to Jesus, more and more vigorously, in spite of all the noise around them and the fact that others told them to hush up! (It seems that their lack of sight did little to dull their enthusiasm or desire for Christ to come their way!) Jesus hears their yelling and calls back to them. When they're 'touched' by Jesus, ("remembered by God") their reaction is instantaneous: they follow! Thanks be to God!

### Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of All! In the midst of all the commotion, in spite of all the noise, even in the face of discouragement that might come our way - you hear our cries. You know how earnestly we long for you. And you hear us. And you call back to us. And you touch us. Lead, O God, that we might follow you...

Today, I remember and pray for \_\_\_\_\_,  
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,  
with your love  
In Christ's name I pray.