

PCC Prayer Guide - Week 19 (of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Purpose – To come together as a community of believers and focus our attention on the Lord in a time that is fraught with uncertainty. Using the Scripture as our guide we ask God to search our hearts and lead our prayers.

Worship

This week we are reminded that Jesus is worthy of our worship in the middle of our sadness, anger, confusion and pain. This is often the place of our deepest worship - the complete abandonment of our perceived ability to fix or control our lives. At the death of their brother Lazarus, Mary and Martha greet Jesus with anger and sorrow. We can do the same. Like Mary we can fall at His feet and worship Him as the only answer to what grieves us most.

John 11:32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.

Psalms 63:8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Confess

When we seek to solve our sadness in anything other than Jesus, we deny His Lordship, His love and sovereignty over us. We confess that trusting God in the middle of our sorrow makes us vulnerable, which can be an awful, yet freeing, sensation. Confess your need to trust God alone, even in the sorrow and the dark.

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Isaiah 12:2 “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Intercede

We pray for those who are experiencing the sorrow that comes with loss – loss of community, resources, life, health, stability, employment. We pray that the reality of the resurrecting power of Jesus will bring hope and healing to the sadness.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Philippians 3:8, 10-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Praise

In the face of sadness and even death, we can be confident in the God we praise. He knows our sorrows and hears our cries. His promises are true, and our hope is secure in Him.

Psalms 56:10-11a, 13 In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid, For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Psalms 63:3-4 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.