

# Harmony Presbyterian Church

## Prayer for Week of March 2 - 8, 2011

(Prayers also found at [www.HarmonyPres.com](http://www.HarmonyPres.com) )

Reading the scripture is an interesting exercise, isn't it? You need to get into the story, read the passage in it's context & how it fits in with the whole book, know something about the history and time for which it was written, be aware of the language issues, know about the authors basic purpose and beliefs, and much more. And all of that is expected from how we have been educated, but the big surprise is that as you know all of that, as you bring your natural skepticism to the reading, as you "put up" with the process - God speaks! Isn't it amazing that for all of our defensive maneuvers to avoid God, His Holy Spirit will not be silent. God is real, God exists, God is relevant and alive. God, who wrote the Bible, is the living Word, Jesus our Savior, and He still talks to us and moves us as powerfully as if he stood in front of us. Reading the Bible and praying to Him is a powerful act of worship and submission to His Lordship. I hope these readings and musings will each day spark a new conversation with God, open you to new areas of growth, and deepen your commitment to Him and your desire to make Jesus your #1 Passion.

As usual, any ideas or suggestions are gladly received at the writer's end, since long ago we found we can't think up all the good stuff alone.

(For individual prayer requests, check [www.HarmonyPres.com](http://www.HarmonyPres.com) go to "News" page and there You will find the "Prayer Requests" with the latest prayer needs & these listed on the bottom.)

### Wednesday, March 2

*John 5: (The Message) <sup>30</sup>"I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders. <sup>31</sup>If I were simply speaking on my own account, it would be an empty, self-serving witness. <sup>32</sup>But an independent witness confirms me, the most reliable Witness of all. <sup>33</sup>Furthermore, you all saw and heard John, and he gave expert and reliable testimony about me, didn't he?*

*Teach me again, Lord, to listen and then decide what to do. I get ahead of myself, and lack patience to wait for Your Kairos moment. I think my timelines should trump Your plans, and I seem always in trouble from not listening to You first. Forgive me and fill me with Your Spirit that I may grow and mature into a reliable servant. I desire first to please You but my actions often say I work for me first. Open my ears, focus my attention, let me truly hear You so I can get my orders and then give me the trust and faith to carry them out. Reshape me, transform me and make me into Your image that I may have a life that can lead people to You as John did. Amen.*

### Thursday, March 3

*John 5: (The Message) Jesus speaking: <sup>34</sup>"But my purpose is not to get your vote, and not to appeal to mere human testimony. I'm speaking to you this way so that you will be saved.*

*In our world, Jesus, we are so mob driven, as You sadly know, for a mob of children of Abraham, people of the covenant, called for Your crucifixion. We also blow hot & cold, yet You remain the same. We join mobs-parties-unions-groups and our emotions get swayed,*

*we forget to think, and we respond to the campaign promises of people who seem to never do what they say, but we continue to elect them. You instead, just stand for the same thing from creation till now, and we move all over around You. We know Your intent is our salvation, and we want to be saved - protect us from ourselves. Give us reason, critical thinking, deep & abiding faith, that we can hear You, be committed to follow You and not get caught in the criticism & hatreds of others who follow the herd. We pray for our politicians - of all parties - that they listen to You and hear Your unchanging truth and commit their lives to live for You first and above all other calls. Lead our land with people who follow You and are not for sale to the highest bidders or cries of the sickest group. Heal me, use our land that we may be saved and make us all fit to do Your will. Amen.*

### **Friday, March 4**

*John 5: [\(The Message\)](#) <sup>35</sup>John was a torch, blazing and bright, and you were glad enough to dance for an hour or so in his bright light. <sup>36</sup>But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John's witness. It's the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me*

*Like John, we have people of great talent, who lead conferences, appear on TV, and deeply move our lives. What a marvelous image, the brilliance of their witnesses to You, the light they shined into the darkness of this world, and we do dance in their light. We have followed gifted preachers and leaders who unveil You to us, and we begin to adulate them. Even when they warn us, we try to replace You with them. They are bright lights, but only candles compared to the brilliance of You, Lord Jesus. And however great they are, Your presences is greater, Your call is more consuming and is big enough for us to embrace with all our life. It is not the great speakers, the wonderful worship events, or the great leadership we want to follow but the object of their ministry, You! The light they cast points to and confirms You, Jesus, as the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior of all. Our finished tasks point to You, confirm You, affirm You and lead others to Your feet to worship You with us. Amen.*

### **Saturday, March 5**

*John 5: [\(The Message\)](#) . <sup>37</sup>The Father who sent me, confirmed me. And you missed it. You never heard his voice, you never saw his appearance. <sup>38</sup>There is nothing left in your memory of his Message because you do not take his Messenger seriously.*

*How painful this passage is to read, Lord. That You have been calling me, speaking to me and I have blissfully missed it. Either I didn't listen well, or was distracted by the comments of others, or my own desire to not be different from the world, so filled me, but whatever the excuse I would offer, I didn't take You seriously. When I am 'found out', my sinfulness seems to always blame: - I blame You, others, the weather, You name it, but seldom take responsibility for my not listening to You, for my missing You. I hear You now, I see You now and I pray, help me. Change this deadly path within me and get me serious about You. Reveal Yourself to me so I not only hear and see You, but am so deeply touched I never forget. Let me live to please You and not the deadly ways of the world. I feel like I have been with You, but then suffer amnesia. I do not want to be*

*this way, I can't do this alone, I need Your Holy Spirit if I am to have any hope. Lord, fill me with Yourself and become the center of my life. Amen.*

### **Sunday, March 6**

**John 5: [\(The Message\)](#)** <sup>39</sup>*"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! <sup>40</sup>And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want.*

*Lord, forgive us, for we are not the people of deep faith we want to be. Instead, we have become religious people, caught in 'right answers' and 'proper behaviors' that actually keep us from You. We worry more about the 'right translation' of the Bible than the content of the revelation You offer us. We get all involved in what is wrong with others who believe wrongly, finger pointing, but miss You completely as we argue and battle each other. We pray we can see You. Open our eyes, take us away from the habits we have. Separate us from the 'correct answers' we crave which keep us from faithfully following You, and instead fill us with ability to be good students who learn fully from You. Deepen our trust that we will not worship the tools You gave us to follow You, and instead worship You. Let us see You, and in meeting and following You, experience the true life You offer. The Born again life, the full to running over life, the gracious life that is only found in You. Amen.*

### **Monday, March 7**

**John 5: [\(The Message\)](#)** <sup>41</sup>*"I'm not interested in crowd approval. <sup>42</sup>And do you know why? Because I know you and your crowds. I know that love, especially God's love, is not on your working agenda. <sup>43</sup>I came with the authority of my Father, and you either dismiss me or avoid me. If another came, acting self-important, you would welcome him with open arms. <sup>44</sup>How do you expect to get anywhere with God when you spend all your time jockeying for position with each other, ranking your rivals and ignoring God?*

*Lord of life, in this sick world, full of death and brokenness, we have converted Your relational gift offered for us to know You, into callously using each other. We puff ourselves up and act like we need no one. In our politics, we follow bad leaders after bad leaders. Our world history is about our being fooled time after time, mistaking mere men for You, and then rabidly following these charismatic people to our own slavery to death. They even evoke Your name, and we do horrible violence and unspeakable things to keep them happy and not lose favor with them. Set us free from following earthly leaders, and free us from our pathologies & behaviors that allow them to rule us, and from governments that want to be like a god to us. Set us free that we may live in Your liberty. We pray You will deepen our trust in You, give us wisdom to discern truth and courage to follow and serve where You call. Let us be filled with Your love so completely that we overflow with Agape love to all we meet. O Lord, we worship You and praise You, You alone are the one in whom we place our faith. Amen.*

### **Tuesday, March 8**

**John 5: [\(The Message\)](#)** <sup>45</sup>*"But don't think I'm going to accuse you before my Father. Moses, in whom you put so much stock, is your accuser. <sup>46</sup>If you believed, really believed, what Moses*

said, you would believe me. He wrote of me. <sup>47</sup>If you won't take seriously what he wrote, how can I expect you to take seriously what I speak?"

*O God, we are convicted by our own knowledge. It is our Eden sin to have the knowledge of good and evil and be able to label everything that way. We continue to try to replace You with ourselves. We have Your word, the Bible, we are people of covenant and law, both from Abraham, Moses and through Jesus, we are under the new covenant. We know You pointed us to Jesus, and we desire to follow. We pray for all those whom we know who have heard and not listened, we pray for them, that they will come to You. For our lives which have not taken You seriously as we should, we pray for our own lives that we will be turned around and discover the wonder of Your love anew. And for all who have never heard of You, who live in the world and are being crushed by the evil each day, O God, set them free. Use us to reach them, and let our lives which take You seriously be a living sermon to them. Amen.*

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## GENERAL PRAYER AREAS

Generic Prayer needs that will always be there, a list of categories or topics You can fill-in with Your prayers:

Pray For: Family, Relationship, Friends, Children, Parents, Divorce, Births, Deaths

For: Illness, healing, broken bones, broken spirits, emotional problems, depression, Rage, addictions, surgery's, cancer, suicidal thoughts, unknown emerging issues

For: Employment, harassment, promotion, challenges, opportunities, entrepreneurs, retirement, service, & businesses that they use Christ-like methods in all their actions,

For: workers that they are safe in the work place and especially for American workers that they can stay employed and produce good products; for the unemployed that their spirits are lifted up and they keep trying to find that job – open opportunities for all who want to work

For: Bills, stewardship, debts, loans, homes to live in, cars that work, for Banks and financial institutions, the Government's debt load, (& Harmony's debt load)

For: the world – for Racism & Slavery that is bigger than ever, the poor, medical needs, economic needs, development needs, moral and social needs,

For: people and nations on every continent and island area, for floods, earthquakes, typhoons & hurricanes, tornados, fires, avalanches & blizzards

For: The environment, prayer for all the critters that have no voice, from the seemingly least to the biggest, prayers for their environment, prayers for poachers, for those who pollute, for the clean-up of polluted areas, for wisdom & good intentions in Governments, environmental groups, citizens as well as industry & business.

For: Harmony & all churches, faithfulness, trust in God, belief in the word of God, for those who are not saved, for those who sit in church and don't yet know God, for unity in the Body of Christ. For other religions, especially those who consider us their enemy, prayer for peace, and God's Spirit to work

For Peace, for our enemies, for our Military, for Military families, for terrorist groups, for all who use violence and evil means to take away freedom and liberty,

For our Government, at all levels, that they look to God for leadership and vision, and have the courage to follow.

For our courts that they seek truth and practice justice in all their actions, always eschewing politics.

For our fellow citizens that they become active and involved in the political process and vote, that we exercise our Constitutional rights

For all the governments of the world, for an end to racism, despots & tyrants, rule by pitting groups against groups. An end of genocides, oppressions of minorities, withholding education or food or medicine from anyone.

For: Immigrants from lands with failed economies or governments, for patience and loving action by states and federal government, for safety for all people, for those who are refugees and those who have no home, for our debate about those here illegally.

For all who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior, that they will hear the good news and respond in faith.

(Any more to add, anything we forgot? Let us know at [RevKunter@aol.com](mailto:RevKunter@aol.com), we'll add them in too.

