

Harmony Presbyterian Church

Prayer for Week of April 6 - 12, 2011

(Prayer Requests also found at www.HarmonyPres.com)

Our Prayers continue from John, now in chapter 7. There is a style of "Holy Text" meditation & prayer that starts with reading a passage and then you sit and listen to the words just read. Then re-read the passage and see if an idea or word 'jumps' out to you. Something will highlight itself to you, an idea, a thought, a concept. Build your prayer with God around that - it is the gift of the Holy Spirit calling to you, and you responding in faith to God. I have followed a method somewhat like that today, so each prayer touches an issue in living faithfully, but is not a commentary or sermon on the verse. Hope it leads your prayers - not to just read/pray what is presented, but to springboard from it to a larger, deeper, longer prayer time with God. Enjoy!

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. - Larry
(For individual prayer requests, check 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, April 6

John 7: (The Message) ²⁵That's when some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Isn't this the one they were out to kill?" ²⁶And here he is out in the open, saying whatever he pleases, and no one is stopping him. Could it be that the rulers know that he is, in fact, the Messiah? ²⁷And yet we know where this man came from. The Messiah is going to come out of nowhere. Nobody is going to know where he comes from."

God of life, You are the one who makes living meaningful. In You, we experience relevance and purpose. In You we discover our value and calling. We see in You, Jesus, that freedom and assertiveness we desire for our lives and we want to be like You. We also see the crowds who misunderstand and get angry at You for just being who You are. You bid us to take up our cross and follow You, and here we see the shadow of the cross that we are called to carry. If we live for the smiles of those around us, we will be irrelevant to You, for You speak truth, and point to true life, not the deadly false living we practice each day. Lead us that we can live for the applause and approval of You alone, the One. They were looking for some authority to muzzle You, but we hear a promise in the fact that You arrive, seemingly out of nowhere, and Your presence is startling fresh and relevant. You still do that for us, for all people. Thank You for loving us and calling us to follow You. Amen.

Thursday, April 7

John 7: (The Message) ²⁸That provoked Jesus, who was teaching in the Temple, to cry out, "Yes, You think You know me and where I'm from, but that's not where I'm from. I didn't set myself up in business. My true origin is in the One who sent me, and You don't know him at all. ²⁹I come from him—that's how I know him. He sent me here."

God of all creation, You have come to us in the Living Word, the Messiah, and we are more than grateful, for we have a hard time seeing and knowing You. Thank You for

Jesus, who reveals You. In Him we meet the great mystery of how You relate to yourself, of what is Your relationship to and oneness in Jesus that points to You, the Father. We know You are man, Jesus, but we also know You are more - You are Immanuel, God with us. Like the crowds, we get confused and try to put You into pigeon holes of our own making to fit You into paradigms which diminish and constrain you and which we understand. But You do not fit, You are the original, and Your presence is category bending for us, it actually opens new thoughts we find difficult to process. We see You, and we see more than we can digest, but we really desire to understand You. We trust You, it is all we can do, trust - You speak truth even if we don't know fully what it means. As You are called and then sent to ministry with and for us, so we are called and sent in Your name to those who are lost today. We know You, that is enough. Amen.

Friday, April 8

John 7: [\(The Message\)](#)³⁰ They were looking for a way to arrest him, but not a hand was laid on him because it wasn't yet God's time. ³¹ Many from the crowd committed themselves in faith to him, saying, "Will the Messiah, when he comes, provide better or more convincing evidence than this?"

God of power and might, we lose track of how awesome and powerful You are. We become so enmeshed in the ways of our sinful world that we feel threatened, extorted and blackmailed by the forces of evil in this world. The opponents of Your rule are so big and scary that we back off from doing Your work with the enthusiasm we once felt. Our passion is drained by the terror of being identified as one of Your children. And then we read of You walking through the opponents - untouched! We know that as we trust You, that is available for us. When we stand with you, we are protected and watched over. We struggle with trust, wanting to hedge our bets, wanting to absolutely know before we step out in faith. But in faith, we trust You and accept Your provision for us, You will be there and protect us, that is our promise from You and we accept it. We desire Your Spirit to so fill us that we will always know You are bigger, stronger, & safer than the forces of evil that frighten us. We want to be filled with Your presence so we have faith that steps out and gets involved, knowing You are there and Your care is stronger than the words or laws of our world. You are the Messiah, the Christ, our Savior, and we trust in You. Amen.

Saturday, April 9

John 7: [\(The Message\)](#) ³² The Pharisees, alarmed at this seditious undertow going through the crowd, teamed up with the high priests and sent their police to arrest him. ³³ Jesus rebuffed them: "I am with You only a short time. Then I go on to the One who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but You won't find me. Where I am, You can't come."

³⁵ The Jews put their heads together. "Where do You think he is going that we won't be able to find him? Do You think he is about to travel to the Greek world to teach the Jews? ³⁶ What is he talking about, anyway: 'You will look for me, but You won't find me,' and 'Where I am, You can't come'?"

Forgive us, O God, for forgetting You and looking to sinful people for our inspiration. You know how often we look to the intellectual and political leaders of our world for their

guidance and vision, and how often we are amazed at how confused and contradictory they are. They love the power, they enjoy the adulation of the crowds, they live to tickle the ears of folks with needs without providing any real loving support. O God, forgive us for not just turning to You first. You dwell in the perfection we are designed to want, and You offer the quality of life that only comes by following Your will, yet we seek out the professionals of our broken world and set ourselves up for failure. Fill us with Your Spirit that we can know and desire to be where You are, the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen

Sunday, April 10

John 7: [\(The Message\)](#) ³⁷On the final and climactic day of the Feast, Jesus took his stand. He cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says." ³⁹(He said this in regard to the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were about to receive. The Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.)

We turn to You, Lord, for the wholeness we need to make life worthwhile. We thirst for righteousness, we thirst for a relationship with You, we thirst for what we can't even name, just a driven, endless thirst. We often feel like we are in the wilderness with a great parching thirst driving us to find water. We are in a time of drought where the days are dry and the dehydrating winds buffet us and we start seeking rain-makers to satisfy us. The dryness, when away from You, is a gift we only recognize when we have had You rain down upon us. When You cry to us, 'Rivers of living water' that brim up, fill us to full and overflow from us like an endless artesian well, we desire that engorging flow of Your water of life. We come to You, Lord Jesus, as the source of living water, a place of rest, refreshment, new life, cleansing, as the place where true life exists. The offers of this world are all dehydrated water compared to the truth of Your reality. Thank You that we live after Your resurrection, for the gift of Your Holy Spirit is essential to our living, as water is to our bodies. Well up within us, flow through us and let us baptize all with Your love as Your grace flows from us, Your living water of life eternal. Let us be Your oasis in the desert of this world, beckoning people to You. Amen.

Monday, April 11

John 7: [\(The Message\)](#) ⁴⁰Those in the crowd who heard these words were saying, "This has to be the Prophet." ⁴¹Others said, "He is the Messiah!" But others were saying, "The Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? ⁴²Don't the Scriptures tell us that the Messiah comes from David's line and from Bethlehem, David's village?" ⁴³So there was a split in the crowd over him. ⁴⁴Some went so far as wanting to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Forgive us, O God, for being confused about You. We haven't taken the time to read and know Your word, much less Your living Word, Jesus. We live on second hand thoughts about You and never take the time to check them out. We hear someone say a negative comment about You or see a TV program designed to sell products by 'dissing' you, and we believe it - yet we still have hard times with the known revealed truths. We are lazy and do not think about You so You can speak to us and inform us about Your love, will and plan for our lives. We get more caught up in the energy people use while arguing - imagine, arguing about You - as if we know anything without Your revelation. We can read about

You in the Bible, Your word for the salvation of this world. We can experience You as we receive You as our lord and savior. And we make up wild fables without Your guidance and self-revelation. Thank You for Your relationship with us. We can introduce You to others and deepen our relationship with You as we live each day together. Amen.

Tuesday, April 12

John 7: (The Message) ⁴⁵That's when the Temple police reported back to the high priests and Pharisees, who demanded, "Why didn't You bring him with You?"

⁴⁶The police answered, "Have You heard the way he talks? We've never heard anyone speak like this man."

God of all words, God of all communications, God of love and forgiveness, we come to You to hear Your words. You speak to us and we are moved, we can hardly wait to do Your will. You act and everything changes. Those who work against Your love really get dirty in their approach and employ methods we do not want to be part of, yet here we are stuck with the guards coming and we feel vulnerable and scared that we will miss out on being part of Your work of mission and ministry that is transforming this world. Our world needs the witness of those who have been confounded and changed by the power of Your Body - the church- witnesses who are being faithful and extending the sway of Your reign to all persons. We know our world does not like Your position as Lord and Master, but that is the truth of who You are. Let our words about You confound as much as your life did those guards. Let our words challenge the aimless lives of our "know it all elites." You challenge and encourage us at what is our purposes - fill us with Your Spirit that we may persevere and complete our ministries in Your name.. Amen.

GENERAL PRAYER AREAS

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

Prayers Especially for Japan with the Earthquake/Tsunami/Nuclear disaster going on. For New Zealand with the massive earthquake they had several weeks ago. For Lybia & other Islamic nations who are having demonstrations for change – some good, some questionable, but all need our prayers for peace and wholeness.

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

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, we'll add them in too.

