

# Harmony Presbyterian Church

## Prayer for Week of March 23 - 29, 2011

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

Our readings from John this week really push us to commit to Christ alone as our Lord and Savior. Isn't that the usual the content of our prayer, along with intercessions? We want to have deeper faith, surer trust and to follow where Christ leads. But it feels that Jesus pushes us harder this week. Early in their ministry with Him, Jesus needed the disciples to really 'Get On Board' with him - to commit. Either You get on the train or You stay on the platform as the train pulls out of the station, but either way, You made a decision. Not committing, not deciding or waiting to get more information, are also decisions. By the time, if ever, You reach yes, the option may not be available.

God is Gracious and His intention is to be in relationship with us, but God also has tasks for His kingdom He wants to get done, in and through us. Just like marriage is commitment to a relationship 'till death do us part', so commitment to Jesus calls us to a life time and more with Him.

Take time in Your prayer to struggle with Jesus when You are not sure at some point that this is what You believe. Take time to wrestle with him, for in that struggle, You grow and Your understanding of what God is doing in Your life deepens also. God is real, and the conversation with Him is very interactive. Unbelief, imperfect belief, even errors in our beliefs are usual, and as we live, we constantly learn and draw closer to God. Our sin is forgiven, but still with us, so the process of becoming Christ-like is a life long process of 'peeling an onion' of brokenness to reach the core person God created us to be.

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 23

John 6: (The Message) <sup>43</sup>Jesus said, "Don't bicker among Yourselves over me. <sup>44</sup>You're not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me—that's the only way You'll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End.

*O Jesus, here is my great misunderstanding about You. I like to think it is my decision to follow You, that I am the actor and You are my audience. I get all puffed up over how important I am, how my freedom is so valuable, and then You remind me again, I am not in charge. You, O God, Father - Abba - Papa, You are the one who is lovingly in charge. All that is You have created, You made us and the whole universe, and still have more we can't even imagine, so it is obvious You are the Boss, and I am Your worker. Yet in You, I sense not power and control of me, but Your intention to be in relationship with me. Like a perfect family. I have been lost, and Your desire is to pull me to You and to elect me for salvation. It makes sense You would be in charge, but my sin gives me a 'stiff neck' and I feel rebellious toward You. When You pull me to Yourself, You do not leave me guessing,*

*but You do the work that gives me faith in You and moves me to follow You. You are so good to me, so patient toward me, so gracious that I can only praise You. I look forward to eternity with You. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.*

### Thursday, March 24

**John 6: (The Message)** <sup>45</sup>This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, 'And then they will all be personally taught by God.' Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally—to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it firsthand from the Father. <sup>46</sup>No one has seen the Father except the One who has his Being alongside the Father—and You can see me.

*Lord, You entice me with a hope of being taught personally by You. Every child dreams of being on our parents lap and being read too. The dream of being just like Dad, or Mom when the home is loving and caring is one that parents & children desire. When we trust You, we want to listen to You, see with our eyes, hear with our ears, to learn from You and be taught personally by You. Your presence is wonderful and we can't imagine anything better than learning directly from You. But You are Spirit, and there is no real lap to sit in. Our ability to know You is limited by our sin and our mortality - yet You figured it out for us. You came to us in Jesus, and in Him we have firsthand knowledge of You. Because You are raised from the dead, You are present with us, and as we see You and know You, we discover Your wonderful surprise - You and Jesus are one - the same - Your Holy Spirit is You with us. We are learning from You, the Master of our souls. Thank You. Amen.*

### Friday, March 25

**John 6: (The Message)** <sup>47</sup>"I'm telling You the most solemn and sober truth now: **Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life.**

*God of wonder, You still surprise us and hear us respond with a skeptical, "No Kidding?" You calm us, reassure us, but the wonder, the awe, the mind-bending reality of Your plans and purposes with us leaves us grasping for understanding. Beyond our wildest dreams is where You live, where You minister to us and call us to meet You and follow You. From Your ultimate reality, You simply say "believe in me" and that is real life, that belief is eternal life. We like to think this life is IT! We grasp our earthly life, try to get just one more breath, one more week or year. We torture ourselves with diets, pills and routines that often remove happiness and joy from living - and now You simply proclaim, You are REAL life. Not this phony veneer we slapped over our deadly existence. O Lord, help us to believe in You, we want Your real life, Your eternal life. We hear You, there is no difference between the life that begins with You Now and life eternal, for You are present in both, and where You are is where heaven is. Lord, we accept being drawn to You, now we desire to believe fully in You as our Lord and Savior. Amen*

### Saturday, March 26

**John 6: (The Message)** <sup>48</sup>I am the Bread of Life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. <sup>50</sup>But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating

**this Bread will not die, ever. <sup>51</sup>the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self.”**

*O Jesus, You meet me in my spiritual starvation. I hunger and thirst for You, and need You to feed me with Your very presence. You are the Bread of Life, the bread that fed the Exodus, the bread that comes from Heaven, the bread that feeds us to Life Eternal. Iconic Bread, the wonder food of the human family, eaten by every tribe and nation, the basic nutrition people seek to feel secure for another day. You are that basic to us, You are the Bread of Life. You are the one who gives Yourself for us and in You we discover that Your gift is the very Sacrament itself. You are the Sacred Action taken to bring us forgiveness and life eternal in Your resurrection. Your simple Eucharistic elements of bread and wine truly call us to eat Your body and bread, not as cannibals, but as people who have terrible memories and forget what You did and why. You, startlingly are the Sacrifice and Savior all in one. We meet You at the table, Lord, and even when we do not fully understand all we do with You there, we know You more deeply and fully than almost any other time. You are immediate and present with us, in and through the elements of communion, there You are. Bread of life, fed me till I want no more! Amen.*

**Sunday, March 27** [John 6: \(The Message\)](#) <sup>52</sup>At this, the Jews started fighting among themselves: “How can this man serve up his flesh for a meal?”

<sup>53</sup>But Jesus didn’t give an inch. “Only insofar as You eat and drink flesh and blood, the flesh and blood of the Son of Man, do You have life within You. <sup>54</sup>The one who brings a hearty appetite to this eating and drinking has eternal life and will be fit and ready for the Final Day. <sup>55</sup>My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup>By eating my flesh and drinking my blood You enter into me and I into You. <sup>57</sup>In the same way that the fully alive Father sent me here and I live because of him, so the one who makes a meal of me lives because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the Bread from heaven. Your ancestors ate bread and later died. Whoever eats this Bread will live always.”

<sup>59</sup>He said these things while teaching in the meeting place in Capernaum.

*You, O Jesus, are at the center of my life. As I draw close to You, I am filled with desire to know You more, and You deepen my appetite to consume You, to be fed by You, to find in You that You are the nutrition my soul needs and desires. You are the passion for my life, so in Your in-dwelling presence, I discover that You have taken up residence within me, You sit on the throne of my life, and You are God with me - fully alive. I am fed from You, and the meal is forever. In this mystery, I discern something of the relationship You have with Your Father, our God. That You are one and the same, yet different as we meet You. So too, we have become one with You and You are within us, and in that oneness, we are found to be growing into Your image. You are so good for us, Lord. Help us with our lack of understanding, deepen our faith, improve our faith and let us trust fully in You. Amen.*

**Monday, March 28**

[John 6: \(The Message\)](#) <sup>60</sup>Many among his disciples heard this and said, “This is tough teaching, too tough to swallow.”

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<sup>61</sup> Jesus sensed that his disciples were having a hard time with this and said, “Does this throw You completely? <sup>62</sup>What would happen if You saw the Son of Man ascending to where he came from? <sup>63</sup>The Spirit can make life. Sheer muscle and willpower don’t make anything happen. Every word I’ve spoken to You is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making.

*You are all knowledge, all knowing, and You so ‘dummy it down’ for us to just get a glimpse of what You know, and even then we are confused. We get all cross ways within ourselves, conflicted and scared when we hit ideas beyond our understanding. We do have a hard time with You because we have fallen so far, and our distance from home is so great. You made us to be with You and when we are, we get scared, defensive and say it’s ‘too tough for us, too hard a medicine’ – we think we’ll keep our illness. We want to be cured, but we want it with easy spoonfuls of sugar and no changes to our habits. Heal us, Lord. Your words are like a dose of reality to our horror-film script we impose upon ourselves. Set us free. Help us to remember it is Your Spirit that gives us life, Your will that makes things happen, not our strength, and will power. And that Your spirit is the life making presence of You with us. Be patient with us, continue to draw us to You and help us with our lack of faith. Amen.*

## Tuesday, March 29

John 6: [\(The Message\)](#) <sup>64</sup>But some of You are resisting, refusing to have any part in this.” (Jesus knew from the start that some weren’t going to risk themselves with him. He knew also who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>He went on to say, “This is why I told You earlier that no one is capable of coming to me on his own. You get to me only as a gift from the Father.”

*We love gifts, Lord, packages and cards with something inside just chosen for us. Gifts that come on those special days of Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, and for all sorts of reasons, where we give and get gifts. So, Jesus, when do we celebrate getting Your gift of life and life eternal that comes in receiving the gift of You? Each Sunday we try, but we get deflected in petty things and forget to thank You as fully as You deserve. You call all people to follow, but for reasons we don’t understand, some will not come and some who start the journey with us, fall away. They fear risk, they will not eat at Your table, they won’t give up their autonomy and independence, but they still want You as their pet or toy they can use when they need You. We thank You that You have gifted Yourself to us, and that You have given us faith and trust in You that we can work and serve You. Amen.*

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## 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](mailto:RevKunter@aol.com), we'll add them in too.

