

# National Day of Prayer

May 7, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

*Visit [2pc.org/live](http://2pc.org/live) to view the service via live stream.*

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Prayer from 'Suite Gothique'" ..... Léon Boëllmann

*Samuel Metzger, organ*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Barton Kimbro

HYMN: "If My People's Hearts Are Humbled" ..... HYFRYDOL

*Words and Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard and Claire Cloninger*

1. If My peo - ple's hearts are hum - bled, if they pray and seek My  
2. Then My eyes will see their sor - row, then My ears will hear their

face; if they turn a - way from e - vil, I will not with -  
pleas. If My peo - ple's hearts are hum - bled I will set their

hold My grace. I will hear their prayers from heav - en;  
na - tion free. If My peo - ple's hearts are hum - bled,

I will par - don ev - 'ry sin. If My peo - ple's  
If they pray and seek My face; If they turn a -

hearts are hum - bled, I will sure - ly heal their land.  
way from e - vil, I will not with - hold My grace.

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON ..... Nehemiah 1:1-11a

The grass withers, the flower fades,

**but the Word of our God will stand forever.** (*Isaiah 40:8*)

HOMILY: The Power of Private Prayer.....Taylor Tollison

**I. The Person of Private Prayer**

- **We pray to a faithful God** (*Nehemiah 1:5*)
- **We pray to a gracious God** (*Nehemiah 1:6b-10*)
- **We pray to a compassionate God** (*Nehemiah 1:6a & 11*)

**II. The Potential of Private Prayer**

- **Private prayer can change public policy** (*Nehemiah 2:8*)
- **Private prayer can lead to providential prosperity** (*Nehemiah 2:20*)
- **Private prayer can produce praise and prayer** (*Nehemiah 9:5-31*)

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Almighty Father, Hear Our Prayer" ..... ALMIGHTY FATHER

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn / II Chronicles 6:21*

Almighty Father, hear our prayer,  
And bless all souls that wait before Thee.

*Jauna Ellis, Lizzie Young, Christy Young, Keith Young and Calvin Ellis*

SEASON OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious Father,**  
**our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**  
**We seek Your salvation, then act as if we save ourselves.**  
**We beg Your forgiveness, then repeat our errors.**  
**We have entered Your presence with countless prayers**  
**but with hearts that have been closed to Your grace.**  
**We have professed that You are sovereign over all things**  
**but have not trusted that You are good.**  
**We have rehearsed Your commandments**  
**but have refused to see Your face in the needs of our neighbors.**  
**O Lord, forgive our every defection.**  
**Bring us to an unbroken commitment and a steady trust,**  
**through Jesus Christ, who is the Way of hope,**  
**the Truth of God, and the Life of love, now and always.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON..... Romans 5:1-2

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,*  
*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,*  
*and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"..... WHELPTON

*Music: George Whelpton / Psalm 143:1*

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

## SEASON OF INTERCESSION

### PRAYERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- Pray for God's comfort to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones
- Pray for God's healing and restoration to those afflicted with sickness
- Pray for God's protection for those vulnerable, helpless, and distressed
- Pray for God's provision for those hurting financially and those losing jobs
- Pray for God's presence for those who are lonely and isolated while sheltering in place
- Pray for God's mercies for those who are despairing during these difficult time
- Pray for God's sustaining strength to those on the front lines (*healthcare workers, grocery staff, policemen, etc.*)

### PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world
- Pray for the Gospel of Grace to be proclaimed around the world
- Pray for the effectiveness and fruitfulness of all of our missionaries

### PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION

- Pray for wisdom and a posture of repentance for our national leaders:
  - *President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence*
  - *Members of Congress*
  - *Senators Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn*
  - *U.S. Representatives Phil Roe, Tim Burchett, Chuck Fleischmann, Scott DesJarlais, Jim Cooper, John Rose, Mark Green, David Kustoff, and Steve Cohen*
  - *Members of the Supreme Court*
  - *Members of the U.S. Judicial System*
- Pray that our nation's leaders would love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with Jesus
- Pray for unity where there is division and healing where there is hurt

### PRAYERS FOR OUR STATE

- Pray that our state leaders will seek the Lord and listen to Him:
  - *Governor Bill Lee*
  - *Members of the Tennessee General Assembly*
  - *Members of the State Judicial System*
- Pray that they will surround themselves with wise counsel
- Pray that they would personally know the Lord in a saving way through faith in Jesus Christ

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CITY

- Pray that our church would be the light of Jesus to Memphis
- Pray that our church would serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in Memphis
- Pray that there would be a revival in our city
- Pray for our school systems, teachers, and students
- Pray for law enforcement and emergency personnel
- Pray that our city leaders will seek the Lord and His will:
  - *Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris*

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH

- Pray for God's blessing on our pastoral and ministry staff
- Pray for God's blessing on our church officers
- Pray for God's anointing on all of our ministries and ministry partners

HYMN: "Great King of Nations, Hear Our Prayer" .....ST. ANNE

Words: John H. Gurney / Music: William Croft, William Henry Monk / Luke 1:50

1. Great King of na - tions, hear our prayer, while at your feet we fall,  
 2. The guilt is ours, but grace is yours, O turn us not a - way;  
 3. Our fa - thers' sins were man - i - fold, and ours no less we own,  
 4. When dan - gers, like a storm - y sea, be - set our coun - try round,  
 5. With one con - sent we meek - ly bow be - neath your chas - t'ning hand,  
 6. With pi - tying eye be - hold our need, as thus we lift our prayer;

and hum - bly, with u - nit - ed cry, to you for mer - cy call.  
 but hear us from your loft - y throne, and help us when we pray.  
 yet won - drous - ly from age to age your good - ness has been shown.  
 to you we looked, to you we cried, and help in you was found.  
 and, pour - ing forth con - fes - sion meet, mourn with our mourn - ing land.  
 cor - rect us with your judg - ments, Lord, then let your mer - cy spare.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" ..... Sigfrid Karg-Elert; arr. Bock

7:14 Prayer Initiative: Through June 21, please join us in prayer at 7:14am or 7:14pm for five minutes about four topics. Visit [2pc.org/pray](http://2pc.org/pray) to learn more.

Visit [2pc.org](http://2pc.org) to learn more about how we are gathering online, for links to daily devotionals, and for ways to serve our neighbors.

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National Day of Prayer is an annual observance, mandated by Congress, on the first Thursday of each May. Its purpose is to underscore the importance of prayer for the nation and its leadership and encourage all Americans to pray for God's healing and blessing upon our nation.

The first day of prayer on record was observed prior to the nation's first birthday in 1775, and the official National Day of Prayer was established by Congress in 1952 and signed by President Truman as an annual observance.

This day of prayer is for everyone; persons of every ethnicity and political affiliation can unite in prayer for our shared country, communities, families, and futures.



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