

INTRODUCTION The week of toil has ended. The day of rest is at hand.

May the rest and the quiet of this hour of worship refresh our inner life. May it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding Presence. In silence, let each pray as the heart may prompt.

MEDITATION We rest our hearts in the Promise of Him who said,

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

"Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart"

"We dwell in the shelter of the Almighty, for He is our refuge and our strength".

PRAYERS O Thou, who art the Source of all peace and power, all hope and healing, hear our prayers for others, as well as for ourselves.

We pray for Thy healing benediction on those friends and loved ones whom we mention in the privacy of our thoughts before Thee.

Grant them courage and faith.

Accept these prayers now offered to thee on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the name of the Great Physician, Jesus of Nazareth, who taught us to say when we pray:

"Our Father, who art in heaven:

Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy
will be done on earth as it is
in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER: February 22, 1976

O GOD, OUR FATHER - from a world filled with noise and strife, tension and turmoil, we have come to this quiet place this hour - here to be quieted, to be guided and strengthened, as we ready ourselves for the tasks of another week.

FAR FROM US Thou never art! - but by the busyness of our lives, and by the insensitiveness of our hearts, we shut Thee out. We keep thee distant.

HELP US, O GOD, here to open our hearts to thy spirit, to open our minds to thy word, And ~~to~~ speak to each of us that word that we need to hear.

OFTEN WE HAVE BROUGHT TO THEE our weaknesses - sins to be forgiven, fears to be allayed, anxieties to be overcome, and discouragements to be driven out.

AGAIN, this hour we come before Thee with our many needs -

Steady us in our sickness;
Comfort us in our bereavement;
Befriend us in our loneliness;
Be near as we struggle to overcome temptation;
Let not the concerns and the worries of the week day overwhelm us and squeeze us.

OUR PRAYERS this hour reach out to include friends and loved ones....from whom we are separated by distance - by miles and oceans and continents - but from whom we are not separated by love and thought.

WE COME NOT ONLY with our needs, but also our strengths, and our desires to put our beliefs and our convictions on the line, into action.
Therefore,

LAY HOLD, pray Thee, upon our courage, our good will, and forgive us that we use brotherly love so poorly and so caustiously, that at times we are a part of the problem and not the solution.

LAY HOLD, LORD, upon our faith. Make us aware of what we can do when we do it with Thee. Remind us where it will make a difference that all things are possible to those who believe.

SEND US FORTH FROM this sanctuary into the ways of the city with courage, compassion and conviction in our hearts and on our lips.
In the spirit of Christ, we pray.

anxious to see how he develops it homiletically. Fish was an early Christian symbol. But I don't think they had such a big one in mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: February 22, 1976

GREETING: We welcome the visitors in the congregation this morning; we're delighted to have you with us. We hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way - either at the door following the service, or downstairs in the Community Room where refreshments will be served. Be free in the sharing of your name with us; sign one of our Guest Books, and join on other Sundays in worship and Christian fellowship.

You worship in a Church that has been ministering to the needs of people in this city since the year 1837; it is a House of worship for all people, and all who would worship with us in peace and pray with us in a spirit of love are most welcome here in this House of God!

CONCERNS Today is the day of our Annual Meeting, spoken of in the United Methodist Church as the CHARGE CONFERENCE. Present to preach and ~~adsbetd~~ preside over the concerns of the Annual Meeting....to "charge us up" for another year of service is our dear friend, Dr. Burnham Kirkland, District Superintendent of the Metropolitan District. One of Methodism's strong leaders in this area, it is joy to welcome him once again to our Church. We shall have opportunity to greet him and also Mrs. Kirkland at the coffee hour after the service. Although our meeting has been called for one o'clock, we would like to convene earlier, if possible, perhaps at 12:40 or 12:45. We anticipate a 2:30 adjournment. Intrigued by sermon title: Jaws. Having seen...

Also present this hour are several gentlemen, good friends of our church, who serve as Trustees of the Park Avenue Church Trust Fund. They have responded to an invitation to be with us today, and it is a joy to greet: Mr. and Mrs. William Kirkwood (St. Mark's UM Church, Rockville Center), Mr. and Mrs. William Staubach (Mt. Vernon, Frist Methodist Church), and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stack (Sea Cliff, UM Church). These gentlemen are leaders in the Conference - Conference Trustees. Mr. Kirkwood is also the President of the United Methodist City Society. We welcome them and hope that many of you will add your word of greeting. (Sea Cliff Methodist Church. David Breien helped to build that Church 20 years ago and it's the Church that sent us Kristina Arctander this past Fall).

OTHER CONCERNS Other concerns. Looking ahead, note that the choir will be presenting a special program of music a week from tomorrow evening - Bach's "Magnificat". Also, the young adult steering committee met this week and had a good response and will be presenting a challenging program of activity and service in the weeks ahead. Details later.

Remember the ushers meeting next Sunday at 12:45 pm. Only meeting of the year. Please come. As I announced last Sunday, we are receiving checks for the Guatemala Disaster Fund recently set up; we urge you to respond with gifts to the terrific human need in Guatemala. Checks - mailed to the Church - should be designated "GDF".

PASTORAL CONCERNS Let me report on a number of pastoral concerns: remember with prayers and cards - Dennis Dibble, Roosevelt Hospital, Jane Levi (NY Hospital), Loretta Hull (Mt. Sinai). Cards of condolence should be directed to Dom and Gloria Monge (Dom's father died last weekend), and also to Virginia Maltby whose mother passed away first week of February.

The rose on the altar: In honor of John Cameron Hughes; flowers in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Westerman who 30 years ago today were united in marriage at Christ Church, by the late Dr. Ralph W. Sockman. Congratulations to

Phyllis and Ted...on their 30th Anniversary. Very happy day for them with
Cynthia, their daughter, here from Philadelphia.

OFFERING

Jesus said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.

In this spirit, let us worship God with our morning

offering.