

PASTORAL PRAYER: October 12, 1986

Many have been the times, O God, when we have stormed the gates of heaven in some emergency and fired off to You our "life-raft, fox-hole" prayers...sought You in the clutches of some eleventh hour crisis and desperation.

But now on a quiet Fall Sunday morning...in the ordered beauty of our service of worship, we would here recall Your goodness and grace, and through a common prayer speak our thanks to You.

We bless You, O God, for the life You have given us.  
We bless You that we are still impressionable to the truth of Scripture and to the towering fact of Jesus Christ.  
We bless You and thank You for words of encouragement that find us when our flame is low.

For helping hands that reach us when the load is more than we can carry.

For retrievable insights that come to mind when two ways open and we must decide.

For all those who by word and deed, and by dependance on Your Spirit have brought our doubting souls to a stronger faith.

Moderate our longings, O God, for the goods and gadgets of this busy world, lest in our anxiety for more we end up losing the blessings of a grateful heart, a quiet mind, a cheerful spirit.

We remember before You this day the lay men and lay women of this Church whose witness before You and to You is largely made beyond these walls during the weekday - in offices, in class rooms, in hospitals, in homes, on subways and in buses, and even on the sidewalks of this great city.

Bless them, Lord, with a strong and vital sense of Your presence and truth as they go their individual ways - to the end that they may do their work well and in the doing of it be a Christ to those around them.

Forgive us, too - O Lord, - that our influence has never matched our numbers...that we spend more time enjoying our Faith than applying it...that so many of our friends and colleagues really have no idea of what Christ means in our lives.

Out of Your infinite love for each of us, Father, now minister to us and heal us at the point of our deepest need. Move in our lives this hour in a saving, centering way...confirming what is strong and filling what is empty. All of this we ask in the spirit of Christ in whom we see life's highest hope and its deepest meaning.

In His strong name we pray.

## 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 and may it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding presence. In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

## MEDITATION

We rest our hearts in the Promise of Jesus 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".

"Comfort ye. Comfort ye my people, saith your God. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms."

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us."

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I share with you the Good News: we are forgiven."

"And all things...whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing... you shall receive. And as many as touched Him were made whole"

## PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

Touch with healing, O God, those whom we mention in our prayers this hour. Heal each of us at the point of our deepest need.

Comfort the bereaved and the broken-hearted among us. Abide among us as a healing benediction.

Answer the unspoken prayers offered to You on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the spirit of Jesus 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."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, October 12, 1986

I. GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We take this moment to greet the visitors...delighted...hope that the opportunity will be ours...
- B. Be free in the sharing...take a moment to fill out a visitor card...or to sign the Guest Book. Join us in worship, fellowship...work with us...
- C. You worship in a Church whose roots are deep...neighborhood church...fourth building...minister in the name of Christ...in His loving spirit...

II. PICK UP / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Be sure to pick up your copy of the October issue of "AWIE". Also, take along a copy of the flyer describing the Peace and Justice forum series.
- B. Announcements are listed for you in the bulletin...encourage you to review them on your own.

III. A WORD ABOUT ENLISTMENT OF WORKERS

- A. Workers are being enlisted for the October 25th Rummage Sale. Dianne Keller. lend a hand sorting or selling.
- B. Also, continue to enlist more workers for the November 22nd Church Fair. Key person, Pat Henry, this year's co-chairperson.

IV. LAYMEN'S DAY IN OUR CHURCH

- A. For many years now, many churches across our land celebrate the Second Sunday of October as Laymen's Sunday.
- B. We're celebrating it here today...privileged to have one of the very active laymen of our Church bringing the sermon.
- C. A word about George Leopold. A native of...schooled at... attorney with McGraw Hill....here in the Church, a member of Nominating Committee, Administrative Council, leader of "Hounds"....difficult days for George...as the World Series approaches...
- D. We welcome you to the pulpit...these people are your friends... come to hear the message on your heart.

V. OFFERING

- A. Special appeal....envelope in the pew...."more blessed to give..."

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