

Monday

Psalm 139:13 Enjoying the Parenthood of God

As Christians we are aware of the intense love that God has for us as individuals and also what we together share within the family of God. There is truth and wonder in the knowledge that the Father of the universe is also our own personal Father. We have intimacy of relationship. May that motivate us to pray more passionately for those who have not as yet experienced that love themselves and for those who remain distant to God - pray that they come to the joy of knowing God.

Pray:

- *for Christians you know, that their experience of the love of the Father may become an infectious witness to everyone around them.*
- *that you, and your church would have increasing opportunities to show the Father's love. That you may be faithful and bold in speaking God's Word into the lives of others, and diligent in showing Christ in your actions.*
- *for those within our churches who have heard so much about the love of God as a Father, yet are still reluctant to commit themselves to become a follower of Jesus. Pray that their eyes might catch a glimpse of the glories of becoming a child of God and that they might take that step of faith. Pray that our churches will encourage and disciple new believers with enthusiasm.*

Tuesday

1 Peter 2:9 Enjoying the Purposes of God

God has a plan and he is actively working on it. Nothing is haphazard or accidental, nothing blindsides God nor takes him by surprise. What is even more amazing is that each and every believer has a place within the grand purpose of God – that gives meaning and purpose to what we do. May the thought of being able to find meaning and purpose in life be the vital encouragement to someone finding faith in Jesus.

Pray for:

- *every member of your church that they would feel the burden to proclaim the gospel - shaking off apathy and being filled with a compassion for the lost.*
- *any particular person you may know, who seems to be resistant to the gospel and who has shown little interest in Jesus; that they might suddenly see their need of Jesus and take the next step of faith.*
- *grace to warmly embrace everyone, confident that the gospel changes and transforms us.*
- *the Holy Spirit to push us out of our comfort zones and that we might be eager to share the good news of Jesus today, and always.*

Wednesday

Lamentations 3:22-24 Enjoying the Provision of God

"God is good, all the time. All the time God is good." It's easy to say that when things have been going well but it's not so easy when we've endured setbacks. One of the harder lessons God teaches his followers is that he is faithful even in the difficulties of life. Let's trust the provision and faithfulness of God and be confident to share that with everyone we encounter.

Pray that:

- *whilst thinking of an individual person you know, pray that the Holy Spirit, who always points to Jesus, would show them that Jesus can provide for them.*
- *a brother or sister in Christ who is going through a hard time at the moment, would be able to find joy in the wonder of the gospel, even when things seem to be going wrong.*
- *any friend or neighbour you may have, who is not yet a Christian and might be experiencing difficulties. Pray that God might use these situations, which seem insurmountable to draw them closer to him. Pray they might be able to place their hope on God and his grace alone.*

Thursday

Zephaniah 3:17 Enjoying the Pleasure of God

It might be hard to accept this truth, in all its enormity, but here we are reminded of the undeserved aspect of God's love expressed to us in Jesus. Here is joyous good news! Here is something we can share with those who as yet are outside the kingdom of God. God takes delight in us. What an incentive to belief!

Pray that:

- *as your church next gathers there would be an unmistakable expression of the delight and blessing of God upon its worship.*
- *many more would respond to the gospel with curiosity, excitement and above all joy.*
- *non-believers would read the Bible and encounter Jesus through the Word of God and be overwhelmed with the knowledge of God's unconditional love and delight in his children.*
- *you may have opportunities to tell others of Jesus, and invite them to your church.*

Friday

Psalm 46:1-3 Enjoying the Peace of God

There is a God who is above us, who is above everything, but is also always with us. It is he who brings us through trials for reasons known only to him. God knows what he is doing and is using our trials to transform us during the fierce storms we endure. May our testimony of peace even in the storm speak powerfully to everyone we meet.

Pray for:

- a person you know who is struggling to be content. Ask God to enable them to trust him and to find in him a peace that passes understanding.
- your church – that it might so embody the peace of God, that it would act like a magnet drawing in those on the periphery of your congregation and arousing their interest so that they might in turn experience this peace themselves.
- for believers to become agents of peace in a society where sectarianism is all too prevalent and where difference of any sort is viewed with suspicion.
- your work context, school or wherever you spend a good part of your day - that you might be a peacemaker and point to Jesus through your actions.

Saturday

Psalm 16:11 Enjoying the Presence of God

What a profound truth that God makes his presence keenly felt by us on a daily basis – yet how little we reflect on that. The title given to Jesus “Immanuel” meaning “God is with us” conveys this powerful truth, as does the image of the pillar of cloud and fire leading the people of Israel in the wilderness. This reality that transforms the believer’s present experience is exactly what searching and uncertain hearts crave.

Pray for:

- God to make himself known in our land by a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit & revival.
- Christians to be able to sense the presence and the leading of God in a situation where God has brought an individual who is searching for God to them. Pray they might have the right words to use.
- your church this weekend, that God would be unmistakably present in the power of the Holy Spirit and that he would speak directly and draw some who meet there to saving faith.
- a person or family member you know, who has drifted from an active faith in Jesus or perhaps one who has always shown a disinterest in faith. Pray for spiritual peace to take root in their hearts.

Let's pray...



Moderator – Week of Prayer

For this week from 1-8 March, I invite you to join with me as a church family for a special week of prayer as we focus on my moderatorial theme, ‘Enjoying God’. Let us be aware of God himself, praying for an awakening to him, and a fresh feeling of being awed by his saving power. Jesus said, “apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15: 5). We, our friends, family and nation need God infinitely more than anything else. And because we can do nothing of any real and lasting value without God, we cannot do anything real and lasting without prayer. Join with me as we pray with passion and power, with urgency and expectancy, with humility and without ceasing, to “him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Sunday

Ephesians 1:18-19a Enjoying the Power of God

The power of God has been variously described in the pages of the Bible – you can think of the creation story and how out of nothing came everything! This is the same power that parted the Red Sea, destroyed the walls around Jericho and ultimately raised Jesus from the dead. This power is not remote from us and is available to us in prayer. Nothing and no one is beyond the scope of the prayers of God’s people!

Pray for:

- God to dispel our low expectations of answers to prayer and that we might have the confidence to express big, bold prayers laying hold of God’s grace.
- God to pour out his Holy Spirit on our church.
- any barriers and excuses that a non-Christian friend might offer as reasons they cannot become a believer, and that these might be overcome as they understand the message of love presented in the gospel.
- a change in the spiritual temperature of our land and that our denomination as a whole might be used by God to enlarge his Kingdom.

Resources are available for use in Sunday services to accompany today’s prayer. Visit: www.presbyterianireland.org/sundayprayer