

Prayer—Knowing God and Self

Prayer is the most natural thing in the world to the true believer, and yet also the hardest. It is a mark that we truly know God. After all, we can't claim to know personally someone we never speak to. And yet it is so easy to fake. We can master a few stock pious phrases for public occasions and in the end have said nothing at all. We can zip off a rote-style prayer at meals and in private mouth a few syllables of the "be with me and my family and bless us today" variety and not really know what we are saying or why. Our relationship to God becomes passionless.

One way to capture the passion that should mark our prayers is to read and meditate on the Psalms. Calvin called the Psalms "an anatomy of all the parts of the soul; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated."

There is passion; *there* is intensity; *there* is the soul wrestling with every part of itself in the effort to know God and itself. Calvin says further, "Genuine and earnest prayer proceeds first from a sense of our need, and next, from faith in the promises of God. It is by perusing these inspired compositions, that men will be most effectually awakened to a sense of their maladies, and, at the same time, instructed in seeking remedies for their cure."

Seeing the psalmists probe the inmost stuff of their hearts inspires us to examine our hearts in particular, exposing them to the light of God's Spirit.

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 165 *"Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 515 *"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star?"*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 642 *"Be Thou My Vision"*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 47 *"God the Lord Is King"*

Sermon Text Isaiah 43:8-13, pew Bible p. 603

Sermon TESTIMONY TO THE HOLY, TRUE GOD

*Hymn of Response # 358 *"For All the Saints"*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.