

The Lord's Day

March 22, 2020

God's Call to Us to Worship Him

"Be Still and know that I Am God"

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; . . . I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exalt in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ~ Isaiah 61:1-11

***His Call to Us to Worship Him** Psalm 34:1-4

Elder: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Elder: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

People: I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Elder: The Lord dwells among his people.

People: Let us worship our God.

***Hymn of Our Procession Into the Presence of God**

Psalm 150: Sing Praise to the Lord!

Hymn #21

***Prayer of Invocation**

The Father Reaffirms His Covenant with Us

Reading of the Law

The Moral Law

Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin

The Lord's Prayer and Silent Prayer

Assurance of His Pardon

1 Peter 1:3-9

***Hymns of Thanksgiving**

Psalm 92: How Good It Is to Thank the Lord
It Is Well with My Soul

Hymn #635

Hymn #691

Intercessory Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Dismissal of children Grade 1 and under to Junior Church

Christ is Made Known to Us

Hymn of Prayer

Psalm 23: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Hymn #86

His Word is Opened to Us Pastor Nicholas Hathaway

Scripture: Romans 12:9-18 (Pew Bible pg. 948)

*"The grass withers, the flower fades ...
But the Word of our God will stand forever."*

Message: How to Mourn, How to Rejoice

Prayer for Response and Obedience

**We Depart with His Blessing
And Sending of His Spirit**

Offering of His Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*Gloria Patri (Hymn 735)

***Prayer of Commitment to Service**

***Hymn of our Procession into the World**

Trust and Obey

Hymn #672

***Charge and Benediction**

(Hymn 586, vs. 1)

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

The Moral Law

Exodus 20: 1-17, Matthew 22:37-40

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant. Or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

And [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

English Standard Version

Living and Growing in the Family of God
The Basic “How Tos” of the Christian Life
#9: How to Rejoice; How to Mourn

Romans 12:9-18

Introduction: Bell's Palsy

Fallen Condition Focus:

Sometimes we don't believe God is just.

The grace of the gospel frees us

to _____ with those who _____ and
_____ with those who _____.

Hope

Outdoing honor

Sincerity

Prayer

Imagination

Trust

Affection

Liberty

Conclusion: Mourning at a Wedding

My Own Thoughts

Coming up in the Series

Living and Growing in the Family of God:

3/29 Work and Leisure

4/12 Love for a Brother

4/19 The Purpose of Marriage

4/26 Marital Roles & Relationships, Part 1

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Lord's Day Evening Service
March 22, 2020

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Re-Gather at the close the Lord's Day Ps. 26:8

Prayer of Adoration

Hymns to the glory and praise of our Covenant God

Scriptural Warning

of the Human Condition Ps. 26:9-10

and the Way of Salvation Ps. 26:12

Unison Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, glorious Creator of all things, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; we have sinned against your holy name, by failing to glorify you in our lives as your redeemed children. Our unthankfulness extends to every thought and deed, as well as to our failure to thank you with our lips. We have not lived to the praise of the glory of your grace. We have not esteemed the reproach of Jesus Christ our Savior to be greater than the riches of this world. We have failed to estimate the infinite cost of the salvation won for us at the cross through the shed blood of Jesus. We have not been faithful to you as you have been faithful to us in all things. Father, forgive us for our ingratitude through the reconciling sacrifice of Jesus Christ our all-sufficient Mediator, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Encouragement
to Hope and Obedience

Ps. 26:2-3

Psalms 26

Worship Handbook

Prayers of Supplication and Thanksgiving

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:1-6

Message

Closing Hymn

Hymn #635

Prayer of Benediction



PRAYER REQUESTS

Email all new or updated prayer requests to: ncpc@ncpres.org

Expectant Mothers: Kayla G.

Bob B. will have surgery on Friday, March 27, to remove part of his colon.

Mia F., granddaughter of Hendrik and Ria v., had successful heart surgery last week to fix one of her heart valves. Please pray for a full recovery.

Marilyn C., mother of Christina S., with multiple myeloma. Please pray for wisdom for the doctors in discerning a treatment going forward and especially pray for Marilyn's salvation.

Tammy C., sister-in-law of Nancy S., has a staph infection in her knee. She still has 5 more weeks of the home iv. With what's going on with this virus, there's no doctors' visits, unless there's a change in the way her wounds look.

Scott P., brother of Kent P., recovering from surgery to remove a tumor from his brain and as he starts radiation treatment.

Nancy M., as she continues to battle cancer.

Anna C., friend of the Stewarts, continues to battle metastatic breast cancer.

Kathleen M. as she continues to wrestle with her cancer.

Dave B., Jill K.'s foster brother, as he continues treatment for cancer.

Eleanor R., Paul F.'s mother, has cancer in the abdomen. Please pray that she will be comfortable in the coming weeks.

Karen E. as she struggles with various health issues.

Kayla, granddaughter of Doug and Chris T., as she continues treatment for optic nerve glioma.

Ria v.: We pray in thanksgiving for the spiritual strength that Ria continues to display as she rests in hospice care at her home. She and the family appreciate the warm comfort and support she is receiving from members of the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evening Worship: Dr. David G. Barker writes on feeding our souls, part 2 in his series, “Christian Contentment.” Go to his website, www.ephesians515.com for the sermon.

VBS Craft Supplies Needed: For one of the VBS crafts, we are in need of empty paper towel rolls. A box will be set out for collection in the narthex under the coat rack.

Upper School Omnibus and Civics Teacher

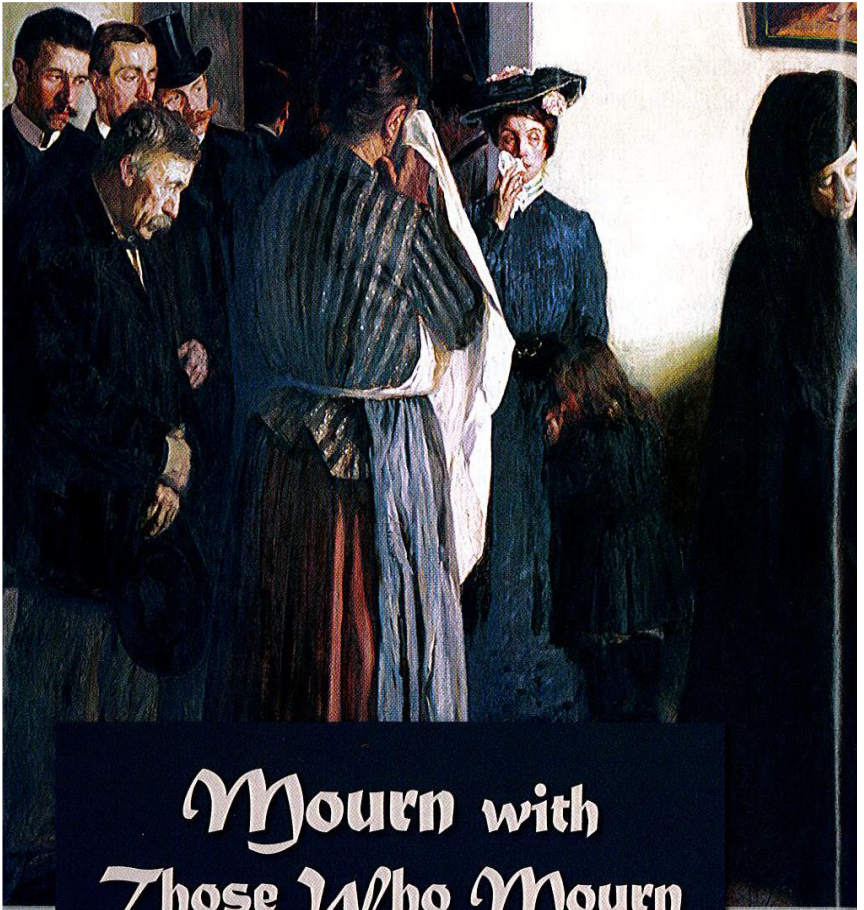
New Covenant Christian School is currently accepting applications for a qualified full-time Upper School humanities teacher, capable of teaching modern history and literature (9th and 12th grade) and U.S. civics. Candidates should hold a degree in humanities or comparable field. Familiarity with the Great Books required, prior experience in classical academics strongly preferred. Candidates should have a passion for making disciples, scholars, and citizens of their students, have a vision for the classical, Christian education movement, and love Christ. Additional responsibilities for this position will include assisting the Head of School in fulfilling accreditation standards.

Full-time Upper School teachers are required to agree with, understand, and teach Reformed theology (including the Westminster Confession of Faith and its associated catechisms) and may be examined by the elders of New Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA).

Part-Time Upper School Math Teacher

New Covenant Christian School is currently accepting applications for a qualified part-time Upper School math teacher, capable of teaching pre-calculus, calculus, and/or statistics. Candidates should hold a degree in mathematics or mathematics education. Prior experience in classical academics preferred.

Visit <http://www.newcovenantchristianschool.org/employment/> for more information.



Mourn with Those Who Mourn

By Archie Parrish

Yesterday, Helen told me that her husband, Gerry, is now a quadriplegic. In college, Helen was my wife's roommate, and Gerry and I lived in the same dorm. Helen was maid of honor at our wedding. When we graduated from college, my wife and I went to seminary in the Boston area, and Gerry and Helen became missionaries in Malaysia. For more than

forty-five years they ministered in Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Recently they moved back to the states and settled in Fort Worth, Texas.

Last week, Gerry fell and shattered his spine. He cannot move his arms and legs nor can he breathe on his own. I spent the night in prayer. Instinctively I reminded the Lord of Gerry's long faithful service,



and told Him this was not an appropriate final chapter for a warrior like Gerry. Helen has entered the valley of mourning, and my wife and I are seeking to pray with empathy and with kingdom focus for our friend and comrade.

The previous sentence contains five carefully selected and thought-filled words. Let me unpack them for you.

Mourning is one of life's universal experiences. To mourn means to feel deep grief, sorrow, heartache, anguish, angst, pain, misery, unhappiness, and woe. It is the opposite of joy. Mourning comes

from loss that is perceived as irreversible, such as death, terminal illness, and devastating accidents. It is not expressed in the same way in every culture, but no matter where you live on the planet, sooner or later you will face "a time to mourn". In spite of the fact that all human beings mourn, each person's experience of grief is always unique.

The little book of Ruth in the Old Testament tells the story of a Moabite widow who became the great grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus Christ. When Elimelech and his two sons died, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, and she urged her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab. Ruth replied to Naomi with **empathy**: "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For...your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16-17).

The name Ruth means "comrade," "companion," or "friend." The archaic word *ruth* meant "pity" or "remorse"; it still has this meaning in the word "ruthless." Ruth is empathy personified. Being empathic with those who mourn means being their "Ruth," their "comrade," "companion," and "friend." It means identifying with them as they walk through "the valley of the shadow of death" (Ps. 23:4).

Christian **praying** is a believer's conversational response to God's self-revelation in the person and work of Christ. Christian prayer must be in harmony with Christ's teaching on prayer. A great deal of what is called prayer today does not meet this minimum biblical standard.

Central to Christ's teaching on prayer is the petition, "Your kingdom come." This **kingdom** is twofold: it is a kingdom of grace, which is the invisible, internal, present, personally experienced rule of

God in each believer (see Rom. 14:17). It is also the future kingdom of glory, God's future global reign in sovereign power, after Christ has made His enemies "a footstool for his feet" (Heb. 10:13). The kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory are intimately connected. Only those who are born-again members of the kingdom of grace shall reign with Christ in the kingdom of glory (see John 3:3, 5).

Most praying is an emotional reaction to crisis, and as such it is usually self-centered and sentimental. Praying with **focus** proactively prepares for crisis by claiming the promises of God for the people and situations Providence places in our lives; it is God-centered, earnest, confident faith.

Why should Christians pray with empathy and kingdom-focus for those

The Example of Jesus

The death of Lazarus is an example of Jesus praying with empathy and kingdom-focus for those who mourn (John 11:1–45). When Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, He said, "This illness... is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). He delayed two days going to Lazarus because God's glory directed Him rather than urgent desire to ease human suffering. Jesus empathized with Mary and Martha in their grief. "He was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled." He "wept." Those who observed said, "See how he loved him!" (John 11:33, 35–36). Jesus prayed with confident kingdom-focus. He lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but

I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me" (John 11:41–42). He audibly prayed for and with the mourning sisters. Lazarus was raised, and Jesus was "glorified through it."

We have seen what it means for Christians to pray with empathy and

kingdom-focus for those who mourn and why believers should do this; let us now consider how Christians can do this.

The "how" of prayer must include both human activity and divine empowerment.

In response to the disciples' request for the Lord to teach the Twelve to pray, Jesus gave a brief lesson consisting of four parts: first, the Pattern Prayer (Luke 11:1–4); second, the parable of the friend at midnight (Luke 11:5–8); third, the A-S-K principle: Ask, Seek, and Knock (Luke 11:9–10);

The Holy Spirit dwells in all believers.
...When we ask for His help,
He provides what is needed.
Without the Spirit's ministry,
all prayer will be impotent.

who mourn? I believe the most significant reason is that Jesus did this during His earthly ministry, He is now doing it, and He desires that we be His coworkers.

Jesus — the ultimate empathizer

Jesus is God, and He laid aside His divine privileges, made Himself nothing, took the form of a servant, and, "being born in the likeness of men," He humbled Himself and died on the cross (Phil. 2:5–8; see also Heb. 2:14–15; 4:14–15).

fourth, the Father's gift (Luke 11:13).

The first three parts of this lesson indicate that the subject matter of prayer and the manner in which we pray can be



improved by understanding how prayer works. This understanding gives insights into prayer's nature and instructs believers in the methodology of prayer, which helps to eliminate certain roadblocks to improving the life of prayer. Reflecting on the nature and working of prayer should help you become a better pray-er.

The fourth part of Jesus' lesson moves us beyond human activity to divine empowerment. Jesus said that the Father gives "the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:13). The Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of grace and pleas for mercy" (Zech. 12:10). He is the enabler of prayer (Rom. 8:26–27). The Holy Spirit dwells in all believers. He knows all things; therefore, He understands both the real needs and the felt needs of those who mourn. When we ask for His help, He provides what is needed. Without the Spirit's ministry, all prayer will be impotent.

Let me conclude by suggesting five

practical steps for those who desire to pray with empathy for those who mourn.

1. **Ask** God to show you the mourners for whom He wants you to pray. Don't assume you are responsible to minister to every person who mourns.

2. **Read:** Every Christian should devote time daily to reading through the Bible. As you do this, ask the Spirit to give you insights to pray for those He has put on your heart. Outside of the Bible one of the most helpful books is C. S. Lewis' *A Grief Observed*.

3. **Meditate:** Ponder carefully the insights God gives you through the recommended reading.

4. **Write:** Write your insights in a journal. As you write out your thoughts and feelings, be honest.

5. **Pray** for those who mourn. Turn your journal notes into earnest prayer. Let them hear your voice lifting them into the presence of the Lord. Usually it will be helpful for you to enlist other Christians to pray with you in this ministry.

Mourning and empathetic kingdom-focused prayer were made for each other. Because of mourning's link with irreversible loss, it usually forces serious thought on what comes after the grave. The kingdom on which we focus moves beyond the grave and culminates in the new heaven and new earth. When Christians meaningfully connect with one who mourns by praying for and with that person with kingdom focus, God Himself will give "the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified" (Isa. 61:3). ■

Dr. Archie Parrish, "Mourn with Those Who Mourn," *Tabletalk*, April 2007, pp. 12-15