



# PRAYER MEETING

July 26

**The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness**

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread, reaching upwards, symbolizing prayer or faith. The hand is positioned in the lower center of the slide, with the fingers pointing towards the top of the frame.

## **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Leader

Lord God our Father you are our confidence. In you, we find solid ground and sure hope, for all your promises are true and will be completed. We pray that you would be recognized in all the world as the Faithful One. In the midst of all that changes, you alone are the only Savior and complete security. Your loving goodness and grace and truth and might reach to all and offer a way to live... to truly live.

Hear us, O Lord, as we come today reaffirming our trust in you. You have promised, you protect, and you provide.

We affirm that we are yours, and that you are unwaveringly faithful. We rest in you, our keeper, refuge and strength. In the name of Christ who was faithful unto death, and the Spirit who is faithful to bring us to life, Amen

# Call to Worship

# Galatians 5: 13-14, 16-24

New International Reader's Version

My brothers and sisters, you were chosen to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to live under the power of sin. Instead, serve one another in love. The whole law is fulfilled by obeying this one command. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your desires controlled by sin want you to do. The desires controlled by sin do not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the desires controlled by sin delight in. The two are at war with each other. That's why you are not supposed to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the authority of the law.

The result of sin's control in our lives is clear. It includes sexual sins, impure acts and wild living. It includes worshiping statues of gods and worshiping evil powers. It also includes hatred and fighting, jealousy and fits of anger. Sinful desire is interested only in getting ahead. It stirs up trouble. It separates people into their own little groups. It wants what others have. It gets drunk and takes part in wild parties.

It does many things of that kind. I warn you now as I did before. People who live like this will not receive God's kingdom.

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful desires to his cross. They don't want these things anymore.

Today, Lord, we thank you for the Holy Spirit's fruit of faithfulness.

## Music

Quiet your hearts and minds as you listen to today's music. Open to God and listen to what the Holy Spirit might say to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8clX2Gn1xQ>

Faithfulness, Matt Maher

## **Prayers of Praise** Congregation

### **Congregational Reading from the Psalms**

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. *Ps 36:5*

For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. *Ps 33: 4-5*

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love  
and faithfulness. *Ps 86:16*

I am worn out calling for help; my throat is  
parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.  
You, God, know my folly; my guilt is not  
hidden from you. My prayer is to you, O LORD.  
At an acceptable time, O God, in the  
abundance of your steadfast love answer me  
in your saving faithfulness *Ps 69: 3-6, 13*

Surely, he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day

*Ps 91:3-5*

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD,  
forever; with my mouth I will make known  
your faithfulness to all generations.

For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up  
forever; in the heavens you will establish  
your faithfulness.” Let the heavens praise  
your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in  
the assembly of the holy ones!

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are,  
O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?  
You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves  
rise, you still them.

The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours;  
the world and all that is in it, you have founded  
them. You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand,  
high your right hand. Righteousness and justice  
are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love  
and faithfulness go before you

*Ps 89:1-3, 8-14*

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

*Ps 111: 6-8*

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast

*Ps 119:89-90*

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. *Ps 145: 12-13*

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! *Ps 115:1*

## **Reading about the word of the day**

“God’s faithfulness is everlasting. He has revealed his plans for his children, and his promises transcend anything we could have imagined. His purpose for us is our transformation – body, soul, and spirit—into the image and character of Jesus Christ. Because he is faithful, God’s plans and promises for us will never waver. There is no real security in people, possessions, or position; sooner or later, all these will let us down. Our only true security is in the unchanging character and promises of the Lord.

God's loyal love and faithfulness should be the cause of childlike wonder and awe, but for most believers, these have become religious platitudes, mere words that no longer grip their hearts or imaginations. It is easy to lose our first love and forget what we were before we knew Christ and what we would be without him. Ask God for the grace to make you a worshipper, one who is amazed by his steadfast love and astonished by his faithfulness." *Kenneth Boa, Conformed to his Image*

## Scripture reading

From John, to my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends, every one of them.

*3 John, selected verses*

**Reflect**

## **Scripture reading repeated**

From John, to my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

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## **Individual Silent Prayer**

A time to pray and talk to God about what you heard and noticed. Pray for your needs. Pray thanks. Confess sin. Ask for help. Pray for others, for direction, for guidance, for God's glory.

## **Response**

Congregational response saying a word or phrase that the Spirit has brought to attention

## **Responsive Reading**

**Leader:** God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful

**People:** He is a faithful Lord, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands

**Leader:** His faithfulness reaches to the skies and continues throughout all generations on into eternity

**People:** We therefore praise the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ in this assembly, saying:

**Together:** “Great is your faithfulness! We will exalt and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things.

Great is your faithfulness to us, O Lord, our God.”

*The Worship Sourcebook, pg 79*

**Leader:** So teach us to be faithful. Grow in us the fruit of faithfulness.

**People:** Help us to hold fast to your faithfulness, as we learn to be faithful people.

**Together:** Help us to be faithful to our commitments, to those we love and to those we need to learn to love, and to you, our faithful Lord.

## **Prayer for the World**

**Leader:** Lord, we pray for God's love to be the foundation of our hope, and our trust to be in his faithfulness

**People:** We pray for God's mercy in stopping the spread of this virus

**Leader:** We pray for God's healing of those who are sick throughout the world and for those whose mourn all who have died

**People:** We pray for God's strength for medical personnel serving tirelessly

**Leader:** We pray for God's insight to be given to researchers seeking solutions

**People:** We pray for God's wisdom to guide and direct civic leaders, world leaders, and health officials

**Leader:** We pray for God's peace to guard us from fear or anxiety

**People:** We pray for God's provision for those whose livelihoods and income have been affected by this crisis

**Leader:** We pray for God's creativity to make us agents of love and compassion, that all believers would display the character of Christ

**People:** We pray for racial reconciliation, justice, compassionate civil dialog, understanding, and true unity

**Together:** Lord, we pray for healing for our nation, that Your righteousness and truth and justice would be known, and that the Holy Spirit would draw people everywhere to the saving power of Jesus.

**Lord's Prayer**

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader

How can we not praise and thank you for your faithful care and love? How can we forget your constancy and your enduring commitment to those you love? How can we not be ever-mindful that you never leave us or forsake us?

Lord, we humbly thank you that you are faithful to us even when we fail to remember your faithfulness and dedication to our well-being.

You are worthy of all our thanks and our lives of faithful devotion, for you are a trustworthy Father, a sacrificial Son, and a loyal Holy Spirit.

## **Closing Prayer**

Great is your faithfulness, O God our Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou  
changest not, thy compassions they fail not.  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto us.