



PRAYER MEETING

July 5

The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread, reaching upwards, set against a dark background. The hand is positioned centrally, below the date and above the main title.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

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 and ask you for Holy Spirit's fruit of **patience**.

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=sq233IM3k9w>

This We Know, *Vertical Worship*

Prayers of Praise

This day, we praise You, O God for your attributes and your works. We praise you for the fruit of patience, which is trust in your goodness and timing, and unflagging hope in your promises.

Congregational Reading from the Psalms

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Ps 27:14

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. Ps 33:20

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

The LORD upholds the righteous.

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble. Ps 37:3-8, 23-24, 28, 39

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. Ps 40:1, 130:5

Reading about the word of the day

Patience is the capacity to accept delay or trouble with endurance and without responding negatively. Patience is developed in waiting, with hope.

“God’s people learn to wait with God in the present moment. Because that is the only place God is found. The past with its regrets is irretrievably gone. The future with its what-ifs is out of our control. But now, right now, it is possible to be with God. It is possible to wait and say yes to God in what is.

Waiting is the crucible where we develop a mellow and forgiving heart.

Waiting with God is where we learn how to be happy when we don't get our own way. It's where we get practice in learning how to forgive reality for being different than we want. Waiting with God teaches us to let go of our expectations so we can receive what is given.

Waiting is an invitation to wait *with God* for the God who comes to us like the spring rain when it is time.

Adele Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook

Scripture Reading

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father

Col 1:9-12a ESV

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 NIV

Reflect

Scripture Reading repeated

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Responsive Reading

Leader: Jesus said “remain in me, and I will remain in you. You cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.” Jn 15:4

People: Lord, we choose to remain in you, so that we will bear the fruit you grow in our hearts and minds, the fruit that is lived out in our actions.

Leader: Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding, but in all your ways recognize him and he will make your paths straight. Prov 3:5-6 AMP

People: Lord, we want to follow you in such a way that we are wholly reliant on you.

Leader: Cease striving – be still- and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

People: Lord, we ask for quiet souls that rest in the knowledge and experience that you are our faithful and perfect God.

Together: In quiet, confident trust and living in constant companionship with you, Lord, grow in us the fruit of patient steadfastness, that our paths may be straight and that we may bring you great joy as we wait in hope.

Leader: Lord God, we see the needs of the world around and pray for all those who wait and yearn for release from suffering and trials

People: we pray for your justice and restoration to flow here on earth as it does in heaven

Leader: for healing of those who are sick throughout the world;

People: for mercy and strength for all medical personnel, and insight for researchers seeking solutions

Leader: for your wisdom and truth to guide leaders in every country and region

People: for your protection, mercy, and provision for those with financial, emotional, and physical need

Together: Patient and loving God, we pray for your Spirit to draw people to the saving power of Jesus, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary;

suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found.

Ps 32: 1-2, 5-6

In the assurance of God's forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God.

Together: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways and seeking selfish desires. We have wasted your gifts, forgotten your love, and neglected to love others. Have mercy on us, for we are sorry for our attitudes and actions. Forgive us our sins, create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us, for your name's sake. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. Psalm 130: 7-8

Celebration of Communion

Closing Prayer *from the Iona Community*

Leader: Come, God. Come walk with your people, for you alone are our strength and glory,

People: AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.

Leader: Come, God. Come walk behind us, beside us, before us, for you alone are our shelter and direction,

People: AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.

Together: Come, God. Come, seek and find and put us right, for you alone are the light in our darkness. You alone teach us to walk in patient hope. AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.