

December 9, 2020

WEDNESDAY NOON ONLINE PRAYER RCF

“O God, forgive me - I am a proud, lustful, greedy man. I have loved authority too much. These people are martyrs - protecting me with their own lives. They deserve a martyr to care for them - not a man like me, who loves all the wrong things.” **Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory***

"So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus's command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all—a vision encapsulated by the shorthand 'the kingdom of God.'" **James KA Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit***

Come Holy Spirit, gather with us.

Come Holy Spirit, alter us.

Come Holy Spirit, form Christ in us.

(ask the Holy Spirit to ready you to pray and to visit us with his aid and encouragement)

“The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord; they forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.” Judges 2:11

I don't want this to be me Lord.

I don't want to forget to remember you.

I don't want to erase you from my
consciousness.

And I don't want to run after what I think I can
control like an idol, though it's so easy to do.

I want to be keenly aware of you today.

Lamentations 3

***I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.***

***I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.***

***Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:***

***Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed,
for his compassions never fail.***

They are new every morning;

***great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in
him,
to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.***

I remember Lord, we can carry idols made by hands, but only you, the true God can carry us.

***Do good to us today in ways we recognize,
O Christ.***

I remember that I do not carry my god in my wallet, and that the opinions of others which *do* matter to me, do not determine me.

***Do good to us today in ways we recognize,
O Christ.***

I remember today that I belong, body and soul, to my risen Savior, Jesus Christ who holds the world in his hands and loves it fully with his heart.

Do good to us today in ways we recognize, O Christ.

I remember that “my salvation and my honor depend on you Lord.”

Do good to us today in ways we recognize, O Christ.

I remember that “there is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.”

Do good to us today in ways we recognize, O Christ.

I remember that I am in a situation and work

and family today that you have given to me and to which you have assigned me.

***Do good to us today in ways we recognize,
O Christ.***

I remember that every person I talk to today will be someone you thought into existence...someone who has the breathe of life on loan from you, someone who is meant to remind me of you.

***Do good to us today in ways we recognize,
O Christ.***

I remember that my Lord Jesus has told me that You, Father, know everything I'm susceptible to fret about today and that I don't need to do it, because you already have plans in the works to meet our needs.

***Do good to us today in ways we recognize,
O Christ.***

I remember that there won't likely be any issue of my loving anything too much today, but rather of loving you too little in relation to everything else.

Father, will you reorder my loves today?

Let me love you first and best.

Increase my love for you, Lord!

Let your approval, pleasure, and voice be the weightiest for me today.

Speak your welcoming affection to my heart, Lord!

Father, endow me with words of encouragement towards others today.

Give me an increase of love for others!

Let me love others, looking for what I can give to them, and not what I can get.

Give me an increase of love for others!

If I need them Lord, I will wind up using them. So help me love them, to want their good, to mourn with their mourning, and rejoice with their rejoicing.

Give me an increase of love for others!

And Father, I know that “without faith it is impossible to please God.” And that faith itself, “is a gift”, like salvation, “so that no one may boast.”

Give me an increase of trust in YOU!

So generously permit me and my family of faith at RCF to walk today by “faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us.”

Give me an increase of trust in YOU!

Let us live trusting that Christ lives in us and will produce his life through us each moment.

Give me an increase of trust in YOU!

Cause our confidence in you swell throughout the day, rather than wane.

Give me an increase of trust in YOU!

And Lord Jesus, you were so often fond of telling folks, "Do Not Fear!" Forbid that I would be ruled by fear today.

When You are little in my eyes, the power of others seems gigantic....and Lord, fear is a terrible apologetic to our scared world. I don't want the affliction of being frightened by my own shadow which you forecast in Leviticus for your people who forget you:

“I will make their hearts so fearful in the lands of their enemies that the sound of a windblown leaf will put them to flight.” (Leviticus 26)

Lord, let us at Rock Creek Fellowship today fear you, and not what will happen to us.

Lord, let us at Rock Creek Fellowship today fear you, and not what others say of us.

Lord, let us at Rock Creek Fellowship today fear you, and then joyfully depict that the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” and the path of life.

Lord I want to obey you today and not my fears.

(Offer Christ your concerns and fears for others, our community and yourself)

When it comes to our integrity, our willingness

to suffer,
to be inconvenienced,
to be misunderstood,
or to be “put out” in service to any to whom
you might send us...
if you call us to it,

***let us joyfully insist in heart and attitude
that you can spend us however you like,***

and let us not listen to the pernicious whispers
of fear urging us to look out for ourselves.

Please spare us that awful tyranny today. We
need the liberation and the world needs to see
a people in obedience to Christ who leads us
through the fire, the dark, and through
overcoming waters, and is protectively with us
through it all.

Spare me from defending myself, as if I have
no Defender in the Heavens.

Spare me from watching myself, as if I have no Permanent Acceptance in the Heavens.

Spare me from advancing myself, as if I have no Advocate in the Heavens.

Lord, now I offer myself to you. Use me as an agent of your care, an instrument of your welcome, an ambassador of reconciliation, a joyful and competent contributor to this community into which you have placed me.

And as the hymn offers, so I follow suit:

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