SCRIPTURES, REFLECTIONS & PRAYERS

-Volume II-

An Inspirational Fruit of the Spirit Devotional for the Lenten Season

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The Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church is to profoundly experience, joyfully celebrate, and meaningfully share God’s grace. We do this through Christ-centered worship, biblical instruction, prayer, nurturing fellowship, and caring acts that are reflective of our love for God and one another. We, through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel and Jesus Christ to all people while supporting the work of missions in our church, our community, our country and the world.
This devotional is inspired by the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and dedicated to the Fruit of the Spirit Ministry at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

May our church family become stronger as this season of sacrifice serves to enlighten our souls to Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

May the Spirit of the Living God fall fresh upon you—today and always.

Amen.
Greetings in the Name of Christ Our Liberator,

Once again, the season of Lent is upon us. We gather in prayer and fasting with believers all over the world in this time of purity, prayer, renewal, repentance, restoration and redemption. It is no coincidence that the season of Lent begins this year at the crest of our black history month celebration. We, as a people, know much about God’s renewing, redeeming and restoring power.

As we embark on this spiritual journey, may this next forty days be more than a time when we refrain from doing something. Yes, fasting involves denying a physical want or desire that may interfere with our spiritual walk. But, fasting is not just about making a choice to deny ourselves from experiencing something we want as it is about chasing after something we need. Don’t just fast from a particular food for the next forty days but pray MORE over the next forty days.

Don’t just fast from media from the next forty days but read the word MORE for the next forty days. Don’t just turn down your physical desires; turn up your faith. Special thanks to Deacon Kenyatta Hobson, the Lenten Devotional Editorial Board, the devotional contributors, and our Board of Deacons for their outstanding leadership over this important project.

In closing, you will note that the weekly meditations are categorized based upon the fruit of the spirit. We praise God for the great work the Fruit of the Spirit Ministry is doing to help us to become a stronger church now and in the future. It is my prayer that we emerge from this Lenten Season inspired individually and collectively to walk by the Spirit as we bear the fruit of the spirit for the edification of the church and the glory of God.

Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
SCRIPTURES
REFLECTIONS &
PRAYERS

VOLUME II
Daily Prayer & Meditation Focus
for the Lenten Season

Mondays: Love
Tuesdays: Joy/Goodness
Wednesdays: Peace/Self-Control
Thursdays: Patience/Gentleness
Fridays: Kindness/Goodness
Saturdays: Faithfulness
Sundays: Praise & Worship*

*Join us on Sundays for Praise and Worship beginning at 9:50 a.m.

Scriptural references: The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV)
Lent—Day 1

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: John 16:33—“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Reflection:

With the hour upon Him, with the world turned against him and with the weight of the world upon His shoulders, Jesus left his disciples parting words of encouragement to strengthen their faith and inspire their courage. Up to this point, Jesus had been speaking to His pupils in parables and sayings that were difficult to understand. But, the Master Teacher reminded the disciples that the hour would soon come when he would speak clearly. Although the disciples in word had finally surrendered to Jesus, the Savior knew that the hour was coming when they would abandon Him.

As William Barclay reminds us, this is perhaps one of the most remarkable things about the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Savior knew our fears, shortcomings, vulnerabilities, frailties and weaknesses would trump our faith in the hour of testing. Yet, He never stopped loving us, caring for us, trusting us, believing in us, encouraging us, praying for us, supporting us, holding us, sustaining us and dying for us. He knew that we would give up on Him, but Jesus never gave up on us. Jesus says I know that you will forsake me. I know that you will face tribulation. I know that you will reach your breaking point but “have peace in me” because “I have overcome the world.” Praise God that the weak and worn now have the courage to conquer the cross!

Prayer:

Lord, we thank you that we are never alone. When others forsake us, we always walk with you. Thank you for not giving us what we deserve. You love us unconditionally as we are. Forgive us for those moments when we walk by sight, not by faith. Forgive us when we are more loyal to ourselves than we are to You. Forgive us for times when we have allowed our hurts to move us to serve from our head and not our heart. Praise you that Your victory is our victory. Despite how dark the night, joy will come in the morning because you have already overcome the world. Amen!

Contributed by: Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph. D. Senior Pastor
Lent—Day 2

**Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness**

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:4—“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

Reflection:

Is your patience being tested today? Great! Remember, love is (first of all) patient. [1 Cor. 13:4] The Lord is training you toward godliness -- and godliness is moving toward perfect love. With so much work to be done, He is really wanting to work this quality into your character now -- to perfect your love, and with it to transform the world around you for His glory!


Prayer:

God of creation, God of love, God of grace and mercy we praise you. Lord, as we begin to prepare ourselves both spiritually and physically for the celebration of the greatest event for the New Testament Christian and indeed the world, Eastertide, we pray.

We pray during this Lenten season for a closer walk with you. We pray for a focus and concentration on Your word and Your ways. We pray for authentication, for revelation, and for wisdom. We pray that we begin to practice in our daily lives all that is revealed during this time set aside for wholeness and healing. We are grateful that we are yet entering another season of Lent, a time that leads us to the greatest gift of salvation.

We pray for the Christian community, our world, our nation, our local community, our family, friends, and those unknown to us. We pray for peace in mind, body and spirit. In the matchless name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman-Hall
Lent—Day 3  
**Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness**

Scripture: Joel 2:13—“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”

Reflection:
Joel warned God’s people about the Day of the Lord—a day when God will judge His enemies, free His people, and make the world right again. Those who trust in Jesus will escape God’s punishment for sin. Jesus was punished in our place, and we share in His righteousness.

Help your sisters and brothers, in Christ, see that God takes sin seriously, but at the same time, He showers grace upon those who trust in Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for sins so people could be right with God. An ultimate Day of the Lord is coming, and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

(http://www.sojournkids.com/blog/2016/10/5-minute-devotional-joel-prophet-to-judah-joel-213)

Prayer:
May we know the love of our Heavenly Father in our hearts.

May we understand the significance of being his family, and the bonds that hold us together as brother and sister.

May we understand what he endured for all mankind and freely respond in a broken world and yearn to share the truth.

Breathe on us now that we may feel your presence and your power during this season. Amen

Contributed by: Deaconess Pearl Sudduth
Lent—Day 4

Prayer Focus: Faithfulness

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:24—"The one who calls You is faithful, and He will do it."

Reflection:

In this Holy Week, our eyes are fixed on Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice that we might have salvation. In this, He taught us submission, obedience and how to give. If we truly have faith in God, who gave His only Son, we are moved to give without fear.

Fear causes people to cling to the material, which limits them to shallow living; faith frees us from the confines of the temporal and allows us to enjoy God’s promises.

Fear fuels lack and loss; faith compels us to good works as we open hand and heart to those in need, knowing giving with the right motive results in joy and eternal treasure.

Fear leads to dread in giving; faith empowers us to conquer earthly concerns, knowing God is our Provider and that we are seated now and forever in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.

The declaration to “sell your possessions and give charitable gifts” is not a call to poverty, rather it is a call to higher living. It reveals we should not be so attached to things that we cannot give them up.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us earthly blessings as a blessing to share with others as well as to enjoy ourselves. We are not tethered to things, for we are free in Christ. Thank you for shifting the paradigm in the salvific work of Christ. Please help us to be wise stewards and unselfish givers so that we will enjoy victorious living. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Contributed by: Rev. Robin Turner
Lent—Day 5

Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: I Corinthians 16:14—“Do everything in love.”

Reflection:
In times like these, our church family needs to bond with one another in love and fellowship. This is key to the fulfillment of the mandate of our Savior— to love one another as we love ourselves.

Prayer:
Bless us, dear Father, as we work to build a better church, a stronger church by making a real Christian fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank you for your Holy Spirit as You guide us in enriching our fellowship as we “become a holy temple in the Lord.” Guide us and direct our paths as we demonstrate the love and care You have for us through caring acts and kindness to each other. Amen!

Contributed by: Deaconess E. Louise White
Lent—Day 6

**Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness**

Scripture: Nahum 1:7—“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him...”

Reflection:

The prophet Nahum spoke out to the people the word that God had given to him. The people of Nineveh were not honoring God. They had repented before (see the book of Jonah) but had fallen back to their old ways. Nahum reminded the people that God was in power and had sovereignty over them. Justice was coming and God was going to enact it.

However, Nahum also reminded the people that God is good. He is one to be trusted. He is one who cares about us and that when trouble comes we can seek Him and find refuge in Him. We can have hope in Him. If we are following Him and trusting in Him, then we can have assurance that no matter what happens, we are taken care of by Him.

(https://journeythereandbackagain.wordpress.com/2015/03/01/sunday-devotional-nahum-17/)

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the privilege to joyfully exclaim our thanks of gratitude. We thank You for the privilege of being able to come to You at any time and truly know that You are always there to ease the burdens and cares of our lives. We thank You for listening and caring, for lifting us up and encouraging us to continue on our journey of faith.

We thank You for working Your grace in through us as we walk strengthened by your Spirit. Equip us as we serve others in need and show Your love to a weary world. May we wait patiently for Your blessings as we serve with eagerness in willingness and peace. Lord keep our eyes steadily focused on You as we share works of love and deeds of kindness with thankfulness.

Always serving with a heart of the Master. Amen!

Contributed by: Deaconess E. Louise White

*In remembrance of a praying mother—Deaconess Ora Hunter Mitchell*
Lent—Day 7

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: Colossians 3:15—“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Prayer:

Feasting While Fasting

Dear God, there are so many things that we as a congregation and as a global Church may find ourselves giving up in the next forty days: red meat, television, chocolate, complaining, social media, sodas, you name it. But as I consider this journey of abstaining from certain foods, pastimes, habits, and even thought processes this Lenten season, I thank You that we can feast on the Fruit of Your Holy Spirit. For "the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23) Against these things there is no call to fast. No need to turn down our plates or abstain.

You invite us to imbibe on these nine fruit all the days of our lives and to sow their seeds in our relationships to one another, first as a congregation through our Fruit of the Spirit groups, then as a community of disciples living in connection with God, self, each other, and those whom we see as "other."

Help us to feast on these Fruit together as one body this Lent and always, Lord. They are sure to make the celebration of Your risen and glorified body that much sweeter on Easter morning! Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Siera Toney, Membership Care Coordinator, Mass Choir Director
Lent—Day 8
Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness

Scripture: Philippians 4:6—“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Prayer:
The Privilege of Fasting

Dear God, thank You for the privilege of fasting. While voluntary fasting is a part of many cultural and religious experiences, many people in the world house and even in our own church house, do not partake in fasting by choice. For many, fasting is less a spiritual discipline than a societal norm. For far too many, to go without food, let alone the other creature comforts essential for thriving, like shelter, recreation, and a warm, comfortable bed, is less of a choice, and more of a consistent circumstance.

So, today, God, as we abstain and restrain ourselves from our immediate cravings and wants out of devotion to You, we also recognize the privilege that we have to do so. Today, we pray that our fasting and prayer will deepen our hunger and thirst for righteousness and result in breakthroughs in the hunger crisis facing our city, our nation, and our world.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Siera Toney, Membership Care Coordinator/Mass Choir Director
Lent—Day 9

Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness

Scripture: Titus 3:4-7—“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5) he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6) whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7) so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

Reflection:

The Book of Titus is one of the Books that tell us how to live as Christians. He speaks of the unspeakable joy of sharing the Word of Jesus Christ. We must develop a passion for sharing God's Word. As we do it, it creates an unbeatable Joy! We cannot do it without the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Create in us a deeper love and urgency for sharing the message of Jesus Christ to the unsaved. Renew in us the joy of letting Your Word be the light and lamp unto our every step. Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Johnnique Love
Lent—Day 10

Prayer Focus: Faithfulness

Scripture: Psalm 100: 1 – 5 – “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into
His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy
is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Reflections:
Psalm 100 is a tribute to God’s faithfulness to all generations along with a theme of thanksgiving
for all God has done for us individually and collectively. The faithfulness and thanksgiving fully
revealed in the Psalm is also an indication that faithfulness is not a one way street. While God
continues to be faithful to us, the underlying assumption is that we must be also faithful to the
One who has brought us through generations of peril and upheaval. We must be faithful and
give thanksgiving whether we are up or we are down. It assumes without saying that the prayers
of our forefathers were heard and answered on God’s own timetable. Moreover, it gives us reason
to pray and be faithful because His faithfulness goes to all generations and is beyond all our
understanding.

Prayer:
Dear heavenly and all-knowing God, We thank You for Your Son Jesus and we thank You for
Your constant and continuous faithfulness to us individually and to our collective human race.
Through the annals of time You have shown Your willingness to provide us with Your grace and
Your mercy and we are thankful. Though sometimes our faith and faithfulness may not be
apparent and our behavior may be antithetical to Your expectations of us, nonetheless we are
supremely appreciative of Your forgiveness, passion, oversite, compassion, second chances and
willingness to help place our feet on a righteous path. Please Heavenly Father, stay with us –
continue to give us wisdom, patience, humility, vision, perspective and awareness. In Christ’s
name we pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Michael Bonner
Lent—Day 11
Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: Psalm 143:8—“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”

Reflection:
One day I ran into a friend while at the library. We were encouraging each other as we were slogging through the semester.....actually, we were gushing over each other in mutual admiration. As we were leaving, she said, “You know, iron sharpens iron.” She realized that we make each other better. We were better students, more diligent in our studies, more confident in ourselves and encouraging of others because we saw in each other a role model. God gifted us with each other and in doing so, helped us both become more of who God called us to be

Prayer:
Gracious God, we thank You for the godly friends who inspire, encourage, and challenge us to become who You have called us to be. Help us be diligent in doing the same, building up one another as we walk together in Christian fellowship. Help us to pray a little more, love a little more, encourage a little more, and support each other a little more. In the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Leslie Wiley
Lent—Day 12

Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness

Scripture: Romans 12:21 - “Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.”

Reflection:

Do you know that your life speaks? Are you aware that the saved, seeking, and those yet to be saved hear about God in your words and deeds? Today, take a moment to examine what message the world will hear through your life and pray that He will use it to amplify Christ

Prayer:

Father, who am I that You care for me so much? I am so grateful. Lord, I offer my heart, mind, and life as a living testimony of Your goodness towards me. May it be a witness to others to seek Your care, love, and direction in all season of life.

Contributed by: Deacon Stephanie Thomas
Lent—Day 13

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: Hebrews 12:14—“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

Reflection:

God made clear to the Israelites that to enjoy peace, security and prosperity, they must serve or worship the Lord. He promised if they would follow His instructions that He would provide for their needs and that they would walk in His divine health. As people of God, the Lord points us to service, however, it is unfortunate that many want titles without serving. Jesus told His disciples that He came into the world to serve, not to be served. Those who would become great in God's kingdom are the ones who serve others. In other words, God's blessings are tied to service and not titles. Discovering your place of service in God's kingdom is extremely important. Remember that God's grace is released upon us based on our place of service.

God revealed His Holiness and power to the Israelites as He freed them from slavery in Egypt. As God walked with and led them in the desert towards the Promised Land of Canaan, God provided for and instructed His Chosen People how to live. Here’s the question for us, as Christians do we know how to live our lives in service to the Lord? God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. What can we learn from God as He spoke to the Hebrews of old and as we complement it with what Jesus tells us in the New Testament? Like the Hebrews of old, we have instructions from God through His Word to live the right way, but if we are not born again through Jesus Christ, we cannot live as God intends!

God tells us in the New Testament that if we believe with our hearts and confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord, we are born again through the power of God and are new creations filled with the Holy Spirit who enables us to walk in faith in Him.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, keep me mindful of the need to place You first in every aspect of my life. You have blessed me beyond measure, and I will praise You with my thoughts, my prayers, my testimony, and my service, today and every day. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Edward Turner
Lent—Day 14  
**Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness**

Scripture: Romans 12:12—“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Reflection:

Letting your light shine is a very simple act of obedience to God. It takes very little to say hello to another person. This is the “joyful” thing to do. When I say hello, I tend to go a step further and ask, “how are you doing?” The “how are you doing” question is one that society grapples with as being politely untrue or a force of habit in response to the question. It is, simply, a joyful gesture.

Therefore, Romans 12:12 encourages us to be joyful and to go with the hope of God’s goodness toward us. As I reflect on the Fruits of the Spirit, all of these attributes embody characteristics of anyone who seeks to advance God’s kingdom.

Consider this encouragement as you care for one another.

Prayer:

Father God in Heaven, we pray for grace to keep our vow to You. Help our walk to be a joyful one as we seek to be Christ-like. All that we do, have and become is Yours, Heavenly Father.

Blessed be, Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Kenyatta A. Hobson
Lent—Day 15

Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness

Scripture: Isaiah 54:8—“In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord your Redeemer.

Reflection:
As we lean on God and remember his goodness that he sacrificed his Son to live among us and teach us how to live for God and have peace, joy and happiness as we believe in Jesus and seek salvation. As we come to Christ and abide in his love and keep the commandments he taught us, we will know the Father in him, whose love he abided in.

Prayer:
Thank you Lord that I know You. Thank you for Your promises to keep me as I believe in your Son Jesus and his sacrifice which leads to salvation. I pray that every nation, family and household will seek You for themselves. In Jesus name, Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Yvonne Gowdy, Deacon Candidate
Lent—Day 16
Prayer Focus: Faithfulness

Scripture: Psalm 100:5—“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Prayer:
Our Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the power of persistent prayer – Hope against Hope! For why do we need faith for the things that are seen? We know God that our faith undergirds our hope. It is not empty or lost but is a very real expectation to be fulfilled because You honor Your Word. You are ever able, ever faithful and all-powerful to perform it. Whatever circumstances we face, we worship You in them for victory is neigh. So, we pray for a right Word; in the hearts and mouths of your men and women – from governmental officials, to the schoolhouse, over our homes and among the Church.

Our confidence and full expectation is in You and Your Word, which are one. Let Your Word live and reign in our hearts because truly our words fail us. Sometimes, we don't know what to pray, but we thank You because we know Your Spirit helps us in times like these. Let Your Word rule in our hearts and in the land, and when our words fail, let Your Word speak! In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Revs. Edward and Robin Turner
Lent—Day 17

Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: Proverbs 3:3-4—“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”

Prayer:

Father, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son to show us how to live with and love one another. During this time of Lent, let our hearts be humbled and filled with Your love to overflowing.

Keep us reminded of the sacrifices You made, and the temptations You overcame because of Your love for us. Let our faces show Your love, let our actions show Your love, let our caring one for another show Your unconditional love.

Show us in every moment of every day how to share this love with one another without expecting anything in return. We know that by sharing Your love with others, we grow stronger in our love for You.

We ask for this and all blessings in Jesus name. Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Deborah Crain Kemp
Lent—Day 18

Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness

Scripture: I John 4:1—“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Reflection:

It seems as if we live in a world where individuals are more attracted to false ideas, ideals, doctrines, and even appearances. The God that we serve is all knowing and warns us through this text that there will come a point when false prophets hit the scene. I don’t know about you but it’s a scary thing to imagine that there are leaders in the church that are operating in a false nature. Our reading today encourages us to test spirits in an effort to find out if their operating in sync with God. The only way you can experience a successful test is by cleaning yourself daily in prayer and God’s word. We can’t detect false teachers and teaching successfully if we don’t know God’s voice, spirit, and personality personally. I encourage you to remain in a posture of study of God’s word and prayer so that you may detect spirits that are not of God

Prayer:

Lord thank You for this day. Thank You for another opportunity to get it right. I ask that You cause me to experience You in a way I never have before. As I read Your word please cause me to receive fresh revelation, allow me to rightly divide Your word, and in our time of conversation/prayer cause me to know Your voice when You are speaking. Today, I ask that You lead and guide me. Give my brothers and sisters in Christ clarity as we navigate through life detecting those individuals that are operating in truth and in false ideas. Strengthen my spiritual eyes so that I can recognize when the enemy has come in to deceive. I give You thanks, honor, and praise in advance for clarity in Jesus name I pray.

Contributed by: Rev. James Harris
Lent—Day 19

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:15—“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.”

Reflection:

Often we come to prayer so full of our request or our feelings that we never consciously focus on God and sense His presence. David was a great man of prayer because His prayer time was focused on God. David made it a point to pray in the morning. He did this because he wanted to honor God at the beginning of his day and set the tone for an entire day dedicated unto God. (Excerpts - David Guzik: Study Guide for Psalm 5).

What a wonderful way to start one’s day with quality time with God “setting the tone” for your entire day – moving through your day with expectation – believing that God will guide your steps all day long – helping you face whatever challenge that may arise. Glory be to God.

Prayer:

Father God, bless all the young women in the world. Give them dreams that are bigger than themselves—so they will have to trust You to make their dreams come true. Give them a will and heart to be all You created them to be. Help them to work hard and be successful. Enable them to be generous to those who are less fortunate. Give them hearts full of love and compassion. Help them to be kind to others. Protect them from people who would harm them physically, emotionally and mentally. Let them know that allowing You to direct their way is the smartest thing they can do. In Jesus name, Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Shirley France
Lent—Day 20

Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness

Scripture: Galatians 6:9—“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Reflection:

Let us not be weary - Well-doing is easier in itself than ill-doing; and the danger of growing weary in the former arises only from the opposition to good in our own nature, or the outward hindrances we may meet with from a gainsaying and persecuting world.

In due season we shall reap - As the husbandman, in ploughing, sowing, and variously laboring in his fields, is supported by the hope of a plentiful harvest, which he cannot expect before the right and appointed time; so every follower of God may be persuaded that he shall not be permitted to pray, weep, deny himself, and live in a conformity to his Maker's will, without reaping the fruit of it in eternal glory. And although no man obtains glory because he has prayed, etc., yet none can expect glory who do not seek it in this way. This is sowing to the Spirit; and the Spirit and the grace are furnished by Christ Jesus, and by him the kingdom of heaven is opened to all believers; but only those who believe, love, and obey, shall enter into it.

Prayer:

Loving Father I thank You that I am Your child and I want to press on, in my Christian life, to become more and more like the Lord Jesus - but I know that it will require me to put my hand to the plough and press on with patient endurance - which only comes from You alone. I pray that I may not lose heart or grow weary in doing the good works that You have prepared me to do, and pray that in due time, I may reap a fruitful reward, in Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Source: (https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Galatians/6/9)
Lent—Day 21

**Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness**

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:2—“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.’”

Reflection:

“*Lean on me, when you’re not strong, I’ll be your friend, I’ll help you carry on... For it won’t be long, ’til I’m going to need, somebody to lean on.*”

Bill Withers wrote and recorded these lyrics back in 1972 as a part of his hit song, “Lean on Me.” He remarked that this song reminded him of his childhood in Slab Fork, West Virginia, where despite the town’s size, there was a strong sense of community. Withers’ neighbors knew that they couldn’t make it on their own, they needed each other. Our church family members know they need each other as well. Recently, our members gathered to support a fellow member during her illness. Some provided transportation to church and others delivered meals to her home. All hands were extended in service and in love. We exemplified the care and concern of a loving community and lived out the Greatest Commandment.

Let us always keep our eyes open and hearts open to ways we can show the love of Jesus to mankind.

Prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven,

We live to serve You. We love to serve You. We rededicate and recommit ourselves to You. Direct us to places where we can spread Your love and demonstrate Christ-like care and concern to others. Show us how to lift up others, not tear them down. We don’t want to judge; we want to love.

In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Lorise White-Wolfe
Lent—Day 22

**Prayer Focus: Faithfulness**

Scripture: Psalm 33:4—“For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

Reflection:

Doing God’s work is a ministry whether it’s in a hospital room or standing in line at the grocery store. It is always important that one receive God’s “go ahead” before stepping out to do his work, whether it’s in a word, a helping hand, a donation, or a song of praise. Often we step out to do “our” good and it may not be what God wants us to do. It’s true! I try to listen for God to give me a “go.” My music ministry carries a message that can reach a person who needs to hear it. That’s why my songs are confirmed through God before they are ministered unto God’s people.

Prayer:

My heavenly Father, lead me, guide me. Cover me with Your shield of protection from anything that’s not God. Let God radiate from me through His guidance and wisdom. Lead me where You want me to go and help me to listen. Make Your light bright for me to follow and know it’s You.

In remembrance of the life Jesus led.

Contributed by: Sis. Rhonda Glaude’
Lent—Day 23

Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: I John 4:16—“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for every blessing. Thank You for the wisdom to share. Your word says You give seed to the sower. I vow to sow my blessings and forgiveness into others. I ask that You give me wisdom to share according to Your will. It is my desire that others see You working in and through me. I’m your vessel. I’m the clay in Your hands and it is my desire to please You. Thank You for Your direction and clarity as I seek Your will for my life.

Please forgive me for those times I have held on to Your blessings and forgiveness that I should have shared. Thank You for Your unconditional love. I give You praise and thanks for another chance to get it right in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. James Harris
Lent—Day 24

Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness

Scripture: Philippians 4:4—“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Reflection:

Sometimes in studying the Bible, it is helpful to read different translations. This can bring the Word to life on a more personal level, allowing the scripture to speak to our hearts. We can then better connect with His word making it more relevant in our daily lives.

As our Father, God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our hearts and innermost thoughts. Not only is the Word of God our guide for living a Christian life, it is a mirror enabling us to truly see ourselves and examine our deeds and actions. Are we living according to God’s will? Are we putting Him first in our lives? Are we sharing our Christian experiences with others? By reading and studying God’s Word, we have the power to be our best selves serving Him to the fullest.

Prayer:

Father, today I thank You for Your Word. I thank You for providing the books of the Bible as inspired by You. From Genesis to Revelations, Your Word is timeless and eternally relevant in living our lives as You would have us to do. From the Ten Commandments to the Beatitudes, You have given us the power to know You and to do Your will while here on earth. Continue to give us a hunger in our hearts to get to know You by reading Your Word. Give us an understanding of the scriptures so that we may live our lives accordingly, both rich and full.

Contributed by: Deacon Deborah Crain Kemp
Lent—Day 25

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: Philippians 4:7—“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Reflection:
Knowing and believing in God directs us to serve Him. God is our passion, serving people is our mission.

Prayer:
Thank You oh great Jehovah for another day to be led and guided by You for You are the Potter and I am the clay. I thank You for Your saving grace, knowing that my redeemer lives. I praise You for allowing me to put foot to floor each day. I am grateful for faith and love from my Savior and for my Savior. Bless Your holy name for my place of worship, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, and the enjoyment of relishing in Your Word and serving others in the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Sandra LeSesne
Lent—Day 26

Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness

Scripture: Philippians 4:5—“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

Reflection:

The fruit of gentleness is an attribute that should be evident to all people—both those that are saved and the unsaved. It suggests one who is kind and considerate, tender-hearted and compassionate, merciful and forgiving, good-natured and sweet-tempered. It suggests an inner calm that is not adversely affected by the fluctuating emotions of other people and identifies one who demonstrates an understanding and peaceable spirit, when maligned or misunderstood.

Source: (https://dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com/philippians-4-5)

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for this day. Thank You for another opportunity to get it right. I ask that You cause me to experience You in a way I never have before. As I read Your word, please cause me to receive fresh revelation, allow me to rightly divide your word, and in our time of conversation/prayer, cause me to know your voice when You are speaking.

Today, I ask that You lead and guide me. Give my brothers and sisters in Christ clarity as we navigate through life detecting those individuals that are operating in truth and in false ideas. Strengthen my spiritual eyes so that I can recognize when the enemy has come in to deceive. I give You thanks, honor, and praise in advance for clarity, in Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. James Harris
Lent—Day 27

Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness

Scripture: Psalm 11:1-2—“In the Lord I take refuge. How then can you say to me: ‘Flee like a bird to your mountain? For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.’”

Reflection:

Spiritual gifts are the tools by which LOVE is made effective.

Prayer:

Lord, Master of All,

Hear our prayer for continued unity in the bond of Christ at our church, our city, our country and our world. We pray for love amongst one another. Particularly, the love that comes from You through the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Let it be evident in all that we do. That, we Your people, called by Your name, use these diversities of gifts from the Fruit of the Spirit to bond in unity, love, and peace and further the Gospel of Jesus Christ here on earth. That patience, kindness and long-suffering be present in our dealings with one another in and out of Church.

We know that You are an Awesome God, so we claim the victory over confusion, disorder, hate, envy, spitefulness and “my-way-or-the-highway attitudes.” Let Your Spirit Reign! In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen and Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Gerald Young
Lent—Day 28

Prayer Focus: Faithfulness

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23—“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Reflection:
Seeking God is the first step to faith.

Prayer:
Dearest Heavenly Lord, we greet You this day in the name of Jesus. We pray that as You watch over us, blessing us in every way that we will continue to focus on our faith. We do pray, especially in these coming days, for strength from the Holy Spirit, to sustain our faith, for it will be tested. Help us to walk by faith for it is impossible to please You because anyone who comes to You must believe that You exist and that You reward those who earnestly seek You.

We will take up our shield of faith to defend against the enemy. (Ephesians 6:16) But we know Dear Lord that You abide with us at all times. Continue to teach us that our faith is the work of the Holy Spirit in us strengthened through the Word of God. In the name of Jesus, our Blessed Lord, we pray, Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Peyton Lively
Lent—Day 29

Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: Ephesians 4:2—“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Reflection:
The love of God and Jesus is in us as the children of God. As we study and obey his commands, we will be continually blessed.

Prayer:
Father God Jehovah, through your Son, Christ Jesus, we thank You for loving us. Bless us to obey Your commands that we will always remember this love and sacrifice and go in your Peace. Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Yvonne Gowdy
Lent—Day 30  
**Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness**

Scripture: Psalm 94:19—“When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.”

Reflection:
A prating fool is one who talks too much, saying too little. I understand the saying “silence is golden” or “if you have nothing good to say, don’t say anything at all.” Words are things. Words hurt. Wisdom only speaks when it has valuable right and certain things to say, otherwise silence is golden.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Let my words be Your words. If I speak out of turn or against Your will, hold my tongue. Amen.

Contributed by: Sis. Rhonda Glaude’
Lent—Day 31
Prayer Focus: Peace/ Self-Control

Scripture: Proverbs 16:7—“When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone’s way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them.”

Reflection:
“God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:17) With enough pressure and disappointments, the passion one has for God can wane. The apostle Paul understood that Timothy was in such danger. Persecution against believers was rampant and false teachers were infiltrating Timothy’s church, causing terrible division. Under such strain, anyone could become tired, dispirited, cynical, and could even question if efforts to serve the Lord were in vain.

But Paul taught Timothy how to stay strong, and you can benefit from his counsel as well. (2 Timothy 1:3-14) How? First, acknowledge you’re experiencing difficulty. Second, do as you did when you were really on fire for God—study His Word, praise Him, exercise your gifts, and fellowship with believers who encourage you. Third, repent of any sins, admitting that you need Him and want to live in a way that honors Him.

Like Timothy, stir up your passion for God and take hold of the spirit of love, power, and discipline He’s given you. He will not only restore your spiritual fire; He’ll make you a shining light to a world that needs desperately to know Him as Savior and Lord.

Prayer:
Dear Heavenly Father, You are our Protector and Provider, the only genuine refuge in the time of trouble. Thank You for loving me and helping me to live a life worthy of Your love. May others come to know of Your love as I try and bear witness of Your loving character every day.

It is in the Name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Reginald Townsend
Lent—Day 32
Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness

Scripture: Colossians 3:12—“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Reflection:
Imagine asking God to grant a petition that would ruin your soul. He sees the superficial and the hidden (and perhaps, unconscious) aspects of our desires. Sometimes, the motives behind our request to God are not aligned with His will and desires for our life. Trust God’s “No” to help position your life and soul.

Prayer:
Lord, thank You for knowing my heart and mind. Thank You for knowing what is best for me. Thank You for the “no” so that I can receive the blessings of a better and eternal “yes.”

Contributed by: Deacon Stephanie Thomas
Lent—Day 33

Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness

Scripture: II Samuel 2:6—“May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.”

Reflection:

The scripture boldly reminds us to spread the gospel and its good works to all of God’s people wherever they may be found — in church, in an alley, a rundown project, a nursing care facility or a shelter. Disciples must stay aware of this every day. Making real the scripture is a challenge we must meet with a stalwart faith that drives us to action.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, make us affirm Your teaching in our daily walk. Help us to spread the word through our words, acts and deeds to all we meet and whose lives we make an impact upon. Mission work in Your name benefits us the workers as well as those for whom the work is performed. May every work of mission enrich our efforts to love You Lord even more dutifully. Help us to be ever mindful of Your command to go and tell others about the Good News of the Gospel. In Your name we pray daily for the grateful will to do for others. Enlarge our vision of mission work and its importance to building Your kingdom. The work to undo social injustice is much. Dear Lord, may our hearts lighten the load and equip us to do what You would have us to do.

In these blessings we pray, Amen, Amen and Amen!

Contributed by: Deaconess E. Louise White
Lent—Day 34
**Prayer Focus: Faithfulness**

Scripture: Matthew 25:23—“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Reflection:

How wonderful it is to know that as we come together to honor, praise and reverence our Lord and Savior, that He himself is in our midst. How grateful we are that collectively we have the opportunity to serve and glorify Jesus who came to earth to pay for all our sins, to heal all our diseases and to help us with every aspect of our lives. Our wonderful Lord said He will never leave us, nor forsake us. How could we not serve and honor Him!? God is not only in the midst of us right now, but He will be with us for all eternity! Always remember He is with you every day, all day long. We can go to him with all our prayers and praises...and He is faithful to hear us...because of His abundant love.

Prayer:

Dear Gracious Father, we thank You for being in our midst today and every day. Because You are in our midst, You have given us the assurance of Your peace, protection, guidance, everlasting life and so many other blessings that overflow daily in our lives. Thank you, Father, for Jesus who through His death, made it possible that we will be in Your midst for all eternity.

We love You, God. Please give us the strength, guidance and wisdom to do Your will all the days of our lives. We will continue to give You the glory, honor and praise for Your faithfulness and love toward us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Contributed by: Deaconess Gloria Tisdale
Lent—Day 35

Prayer Focus: Love

Scripture: John 15:12—“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

Reflection:

God quickens us or makes us alive when we accept Him as our Savior. God is full of mercy. In His mercy He sees our need to be brought back into a relationship with Himself. In order to have mercy, a need is seen and the ability to meet that need. He acts by withholding judgment and providing a way for us to be saved.

God is love. The love of God goes so far that he loves those who do not deserve to be loved. Also, those who are unworthy of being loved are loved by God. We are made alive in Christ. This process is all of God and none of us.

Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, we celebrate Your grace, as we Thank You for the immensity of Your love. Thank You for withholding Your judgment and providing salvation. Thank You for the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. Thank You for the members and their families. Thank You for the vision and leadership of our pastor. Thank You for helping us to grow in our relationship with You Dear Lord, and with one another. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. James Crosson
Lent—Day 36

Prayer Focus: Joy/Goodness

Scripture: Psalm 16:11—“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Reflection:
To thirst is a feeling or wanting to drink something. Imagine, like the psalmist, every time you came before the Lord and His Spirit, it quenched your soul, like taking a drink of water quenches your thirst. Let’s earnestly seek His Spirit in our lives during this Lenten season.

Prayer:
Lord, You are my God and we earnestly seek Your presence in our lives, our families, our professions and our goals. We thirst for Your leadership, Your Lordship and your Anointing Spirit to set us apart in this world. We thank You for Your son, Jesus Christ. We are ever thankful to know that Your Spirit has the power to quench the souls of a sin-sick world. Amen

Contributed by: Deacon Gerald Young
Lent—Day 37

Prayer Focus: Peace/Self-Control

Scripture: Psalm 29:11—“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.”

Reflection:
The Lord will give strength unto his people to support and preserve them in the most dreadful storms and commotions, whether of the earth or its inhabitants; and, consequently, in all other dangers, and against all their enemies. He will strengthen and fortify them against every evil work and furnish them for every good work. Out of weakness they shall be made strong; nay, he will perfect strength in their weakness. He will bless his people with peace, though now he sees fit to exercise them with some troubles. He will encourage them in his service and give them to find by experience that the work of righteousness is peace, and that great peace have they that love his law and walk according to it.


Prayer:
Oh Lord, our God, You are our strong tower. You are our present help in times of trouble. You are our way make. Our peace keeper. We are weak, Lord. You are strong. We need You to sit on the throne above the floods as King of our lives—forever. We ask for Your peace and Your strength to help us on the journey You have laid out for each of us and in every part of our lives. Help us, oh God, to be open to Your will and Your way as we surrender every part of our lives to You.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Kenyatta A. Hobson
Lent—Day 38

Prayer Focus: Patience/Gentleness

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1—“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Reflection:
What shall I desire of the Lord that is more valuable than silver or fine gold?

Prayer:
Our Heavenly Father, we are asking for and thank You for granting us heavenly wisdom, knowledge, and understanding so that we may learn to seek and find You, to love and obey You, and think of all things being at the disposal of Your wisdom. Scripture tells us that by wisdom God, You founded the earth and by knowledge you established the heavens. Because of Your word God, we pray that in all our doubts and fears, You would strengthen our hearts with the knowledge of Your love for us and enlighten our minds that we may understand Your will for us.

We pray, O God, that Your wisdom will help us in remembering to ask what You would have us to do and when, what to say and how, so that it will guide us in helping others and in making better life choices, and that by Your light, we may see light, and in following Your straight path, we may not stumble. Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending us Jesus Christ, who at all times represents Your power and wisdom. Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Jessie McCrae
Lent—Day 39
Prayer Focus: Kindness/Goodness

Scripture: Proverbs 19:22—“What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.”

Reflection:

One thing that many of us remain unsure about is love. As we go about daily, busy with the workings of life, it is so easy to dish out fleeting compliments like “love ya” to just about everyone we meet. Have you ever stopped to think about the truth in your compliment? How truthful are you when you suggest “love?” As a fruit of the Spirit, we should be very careful to love earnestly and in truth. This is what our Lord desires of us as His children—to love one another.

Prayer:

Oh Lord, our Lord. Your love allows us to experience life in amazing ways. Continue to show us Your love. Allow us to share your love. As we look for opportunities to spread love in Your name, Oh Lord, let us remember that love is Your truth in all the earth!

We continue to celebrate Your goodness and we give You praise! We ask Your divine intervention, Lord, as we love each other. Keep us in Your care and let us discover ways to delight ourselves in You. We love You Lord, Amen.

Contributed by: Deacon Kenyatta A. Hobson
Lent—Day 40
Prayer Focus: Faithfulness

Scripture: Isaiah 25:1- “Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.”

Reflection:

In a manner reminiscent of the psalms, the singer offers a song of praise and thanksgiving to God. The singer begins by spelling out his intention to praise God. He praises God for two specific reasons. First, God is worthy of praise because of God’s “perfect faithfulness.” How wonderful! As the writer recounts all the times he has called on God, what jumps out is the Creator’s perfect record. Second, He praises God because His Maker has “done wonderful things.” Notice that the writer does not personalize the wonderful things God has done. God has done wonderful things in his life and for God’s people.

What a wonderful way to punctuate this 40 days of prayer, fasting, repentance, renewal and mourning, by turning up a song of praise and thanksgiving for God’s perfect record of doing wonderful things for us individually and collectively. During this season of Lent, don’t let a day go by without praising God’s name. This is a time of celebration. The period of mourning has past. Death has been swallowed up. Because of what Christ has done for us, God has decided that we shall not perish.

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You that Your love for us could not be abated by trumped-up charges. It could not be intimidated by a kangaroo court. It could not be emasculated by a crown of thorns. It could not be mitigated by mob violence. It could not be abated by a borrowed tomb. But, early Sunday morning, Your love rose so that I might live in victory. For this, I give you praise. Amen.

Contributed by: Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D., Senior Pastor
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Compiled on behalf of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.