



FRANCONIA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Prayer and Meditation

March 18, 2020

Becoming Aware of God's Presence

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me. (St. Patrick's Breastplate)

(Silent Prayer)

Loving and caring God,
we come to You in hope—
hope that will sustain us in our trying times,
our lonely times, our doubting times.
Refresh us with Your Spirit.
May we feel Your presence and love surrounding us.
Open us to the possibilities You have for us during this time---
the possibilities of encountering You
in unexpected ways,
the possibilities of seeing the miraculous
in everyday life.,
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN.

Psalm 95:2-7

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of
praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is His, for he made it,
and the dry land, which His hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

(Silent Prayer)

Prayers of Intercession

(pray for needs of others, for those who are sick, those who grieve, the needs of our community and the world, for yourself and your walk with Christ)

Lectio Divina Romans 5:1-5

(Read 3 times and use questions below to guide your reflection after each reading)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

- **1st Reading: What word or phrase stands out to you?**
- **2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel?**
What specific situation in your life today relates?
Pray quietly.
- **3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from this Scripture?**
Pray and rest in God quietly.

Prayer of Response

Lord of Life,

we give thanks for Your word of hope that pours over us,

for Your word of grace that sustains us,

and for Your word of peace that rests in our hearts

through our faith in Jesus Christ.

May we ever hold fast to that hope, grace, and peace found in Christ's love. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

Words of Blessing

*May the fullness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fill you, sustain you,
and work through you to share God's love, peace, and hope to the world. Amen.*

****The Peace of Christ be with you this day and always.***