



## **THE WAY OF LOVE**

*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

**8 Proper Options with Prayers and Songs**

Arranged by Jerusalem Greer

A few notes:

### **When can I use this?**

You can use this resource at any point during the year. Here is our suggested timeframe for 2018-2019 Ministry Year. These 8 propers can be used as a framework for Small Group gatherings, Evening Prayer, 1 dedicated Sunday during each season of practice, or more...

<b>Season</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Practice</b>
Ordinary Time	9/9-9/30	Rule of Life
Ordinary Time	Oct 7-28	Learn
Ordinary Time	Nov 4-25	Bless
Advent/Christmas	Dec 2 - Jan 5	Go
Epiphany 1	Jan 6- Feb	Rest
Epiphany 2	Feb- March 5	Pray
Lent	March 6-April 14 (Palm Sunday)	Turn
Easter	April 21-May 19 (Ascension)	Worship

### **Why start with Rule of Life?**

We began by introducing the concept of developing a Rule of Life and that The Way of Love is essentially such a rule. We felt that this was an important component to helping people understand not just the what and the how but the WHY.

### **What about the songs?**

We have included songs from a variety of traditions and eras. This is by no means definitive list, simply a starting point.

## **RULE OF LIFE**

### **Living with God with intention and purpose in the present**

**Prayer:** Lord, creator of all things, help us to embrace The Way of Love “Rule of Life’ for our lives, creating with you, an intentional path. Be present to us as we seek purpose in the present moment, clarifying our most important values, relationships, dreams and work, as we grow into a more meaningful life with you. Amen.

**OT:** Jeremiah 29:4-14

**4** Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. **8** For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,[a] **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

**10** For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. **11** For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. **12** Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. **13** When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, **14** I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**Psalm:**

Psalm 16

Song of Trust and Security in God

A Miktam of David.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

2 I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you.”[a]

3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.

4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;[b]  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.

- 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.
- 10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- 11 You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**Gospel: Mark 12: 28 - 34**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32 Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; 33 and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**Recommended Songs**

Come Thou Fount

Walk in the Light

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)” by Chris Rice

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Be Thou My Vision

Called Higher - All Sons and Daughters

**For Reflection and Discernment**

In what area of your life do you wish to be more intentional?

In which part of your being - heart, mind, body or soul, - would you like to feel more connected to God?

The Way of Love is a Rule of Life. Who would you like to travel The Way of Love with, helping to keep each other accountable?

## **LEARN:**

**Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.**

**Prayer:** O God, from whom all wisdom flows, guide us in the reading and reflecting on Scripture, especially at this time, on the life and teachings of Jesus. Help us to draw near to you as your word dwells begins to within us. May we open our minds and hearts to your word, so that we may see your story and your work present in our everyday lives.

### **OT:Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, 2 so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.[a] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem[b] on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **Psalm: Psalm 78**

A Maskil of Asaph.

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
3 things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.
- 4 We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

5 He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,

which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;

6 that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,

and rise up and tell them to their children,

7 so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;

8 and that they should not be like their ancestors,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,

a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

### **Epistle:**

Acts 8: 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south[g] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”<sup>[h]</sup> 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>[i]</sup> baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Gospel:Matthew 5:1-6**

When Jesus<sup>\*</sup> saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely<sup>\*</sup> on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



**Recommended Songs**

Thy Word - Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

How Firm a Foundation

Ancient Words by Lynn DeShazo

Word of God by Brenton Brown

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

**For Reflection and Discernment**

What ways of reflecting on Scripture are most life-giving for you?

When will (or do) you set aside time to read and reflect on Scripture in your day?

With whom will you share in the commitment to read and reflect on Scripture?

**BLESS:**  
**Share faith and unselfishly give and serve**

**Prayer:** Just as Jesus called his disciples to give, forgive, teach, and heal in his name, we are empowered by the Spirit to bless everyone we meet, practicing generosity and compassion and proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ with hopeful words and selfless actions. Help us o Lord, to boldly share our stories of blessing and invite others to follow your Way of Love.

**OT:** Ruth 2:1-14

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?" 6 The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment."[\[a\]](#)

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. 9 Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." 10 Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" 11 But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" 13 Then she said, "May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants."

14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. 15 When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, "Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

**Psalm: 103:1-5**

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live[a]  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Epistle: James 3:13-18**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for[f]those who make peace.

**Gospel: Matthew 10:5-15**

The Mission of the Twelve

*5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>[c]</sup> 8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers,<sup>[d]</sup> cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. 9 Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. 11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more*

*tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.*

**Recommended Songs:**

Count Your Blessings

Showers of Blessing

Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul - Andre Crouch

10,000 Reasons - Matt Redman

A Living Prayer - Alison Krauss

Joy Is In Our Hearts - Sara Groves

**For Discernment and Reflection**

What are the ways the Spirit is calling you to bless others?

How will (or does) blessing others – through sharing your resources, faith, and story – become part of your daily life?

Who will join you in committing to the practice of blessing others?

**GO:**

**Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus**

**Prayer:** Just as Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to his love, justice, and truth with our lips and with our lives. Lord, help us as we go to listen with humility, and to bring your healing to a hurting world and be present to us dear Lord, as we work to live into our identity as the Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with you and one another.

**OT: Isaiah 2:1-4 (A Vision of the whole world reconciled together as beloved community)**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

**Psalm: Psalm 133**

The Blessedness of Unity

A Song of Ascents.

1 How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,

life forevermore.

**Epistle:**

**1 John 3:11-24**

11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters,<sup>[d]</sup> that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 All who hate a brother or sister<sup>[e]</sup> are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. 16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister<sup>[f]</sup> in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

**Recommended Songs:**

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love  
All Who Love and Serve Your City  
Go Tell It On The Mountain  
Us for Them - Gungor  
See The Love - The Brilliance

**For Discernment and Reflection**

To what new places or communities is the Spirit sending you to witness to the love, justice, and truth of God?

How will you build into your life a commitment to cross boundaries, listen carefully, and take part in healing and reconciling what is broken in this world?

With whom will you share in the commitment to go forth as a reconciler and healer?

**REST:**

**Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration**

**Prayer:** Create God, from the beginning you have established the sacred pattern of going and returning, labor and rest. Especially today, you invite us to dedicate time for restoration and wholeness - within our bodies, minds, and souls, and within our communities and institutions. Give us wisdom and courage to practice resting, saying no to the tyranny of the urgent, instead placing our trust in you, the primary actor who brings all things to their fullness. Amen.

**OT:** Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

**Psalm:** Psalm 23

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

3 he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>

He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.



5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

6 Surely[e] goodness and mercy[f] shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.[g]

**Epistle:** Hebrews 4: 1- 11

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.[a] 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God[b] has said,

“As in my anger I swore,

‘They shall not enter my rest,’”

though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. 4 For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” 5 And again in this place it says, “They shall not enter my rest.” 6 Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he sets a certain day—“today”—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts.”

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God[c] would not speak later about another day. 9 So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; 10 for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30**

25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank[j] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[j] 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**Recommended Songs:**

Be Still My Soul

Psalm 23

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Hungry - Kathryn Scott

Lead Me – Dan Loewen

**For Discernment and Reflection**

What practices restore your body, mind, and soul?

How will you observe rest and renewal on a regular basis?

With whom will you commit to create and maintain a regular practice of rest?

**PRAY:**

**Dwell intentionally with God daily**

**Prayer:** Lord God, may we follow Christ teaching - coming before you with humble hearts, boldly offering our thanksgivings and concerns to you, and listening for your voice in our lives and in the world. Whether in thought, word or deed, individually or corporately, create an awareness within us, that when we pray we invite and dwell in your loving presence.

**OT:** I Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Psalm: 86:1-13

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,

for I am poor and needy.

2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;

save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; 3 be gracious to me, O Lord,

for to you do I cry all day long.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant,

for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
    abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
    listen to my cry of supplication.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
    for you will answer me.
- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
    nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come  
    and bow down before you, O Lord,  
    and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things;  
    you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord,  
    that I may walk in your truth;  
    give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
    and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
    you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

**Epistle:** James 5:13-18

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is

powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

**Gospel:** Luke 11:1-13

Jesus He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**Recommended Songs**

I Come to the Garden  
Down to the River to Pray  
I Want Jesus to Walk With Me  
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling  
Here Are My Hands - Aaron Niequist

**For Reflection and Discernment**

What intentional prayer practices center you in God’s presence, so you can hear, speak, or simply dwell with God?

How will (or do) you incorporate intentional prayer into your daily life?

With whom will you share in the commitment to pray?

## **TURN:**

### **Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus**

**Prayer:** Like the disciples, we are called by Jesus to follow the Way of Love. Help us o God, to remember that with your help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. And that in turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again. Amen.

### **OT** Jonah 3:1-19

3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. 8 Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. 9 Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### **Psalm** 119:169-176

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord;  
give me understanding according to your word.

170 Let my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.

171 My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.

172 My tongue will sing of your promise,  
for all your commandments are right.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord,  
and your law is my delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise you,  
and let your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.

**Epistle** 1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**Gospel:** Mark 2: 13 - 17

Jesus[b] went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. 14 As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

15 And as he sat at dinner[c] in Levi's[d] house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting[e] with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. 16 When the scribes of[f] the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax

collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat<sup>g</sup> with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

### **Recommended Songs**

Take Me To The Water

Come, You Sinners, Poor and Needy

Just As I am

You Are Mine - Enter the Worship Circle (Karla Adolphe)

Lord, I Need You - Matt Maher

The River by Brian Doerksen

### **For Reflection and Discernment**

What practices help you to turn again and again to Jesus Christ and the Way of Love?

How will (or do) you incorporate these practices into your rhythm of life?

Who will be your companion as you turn toward Jesus Christ?



## **WORSHIP:**

### **Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God**

**Prayer:** Oh God, be present to us as we gather with other before you to worship. Open our hearts and minds to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, give thanks, confess, and offer the brokenness of the world to you. As we break bread, may our eyes be opened to the presence of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, and create an awareness among us that we are made into one body, the body of Christ sent forth to live the Way of Love. Amen,

### **OT:** Deuteronomy 10:12-22

12 So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God [c] and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. 14 Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, 15 yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. 16 Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, 18 who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. 19 You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. 22 Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

### **Psalm:** 150:1-6

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament! [a]

2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

3 Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

**Epistle:** Acts 2:43-47

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[a] to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home[b] and ate their food with glad and generous[c] hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Gospel:** Luke 24: 13- 35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[f] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.[g] 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[h] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[i] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah[j] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us[k] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### **Recommended Songs:**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Oh for a Thousand Songs to Sing

We Gather Together

Holy, Holy

God of Mercy, God of Grace

All the trees of the field will clap their hands- Sufjan Stevens

Let that Everything Has Breath - Matt Redman

### **For Discernment and Reflection**

What communal worship practices move you to encounter God and knit you into the body of Christ?

How will (or do) you commit to regularly worship?

With whom will you share the commitment to worship this week?