

A PLACE OF PRAYER

MARK 11:11-26



Rev. Ray Jordan | June 21, 2026
Community Church Congregational UCC

◆ SEASON OF PENTECOST ◆

OPENING THE CHURCH TO ALL PEOPLE

Greeting

Rev. Ray Jordan

As the gathering music begins, please quiet your hearts and minds for worship

Gathering Music: "This Is My Father's World"

Chris Rice

Words of Welcome

OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S LOVE

*Call to Worship:

One: There is a kind of silence that isn't empty. It's full – full of attention, full of longing, full of presence. That's what prayer is. Not a performance, not a formula, but a way of paying attention to God.

Many: We come ready to pay attention. Slow us down, Lord. Quiet what's loud within us.

One: Prayer isn't something we master once and move past. It's a practice for which we return, again and again, learning to listen, learning to wait, learning to trust that we are heard even when we don't have the right words.

Many: We don't always have the words, God. But we come anyway, trusting you meet us here.

One: So this morning, as we enter this place of prayer, let us practice together. Let's not rush toward the next thing, but settle into this one. Let us be still, be honest, and be present before God. This is what we were made for.

Many: God, teach us to pray. Not perfectly, just honestly. We open our hands, we quiet our hearts, and we turn our attention to you.

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise: "Abide with Me"

#467

Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

William H. Monk, 1823–1889

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
 5. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if Thou a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me. A - men.

EVENTIDE
 10.10.10.10

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

Sacrament of Baptism



Today we recognize the baptism of
Carly Jane Dario

Our congratulations to the Dario family
on this joyous occasion!

Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

#166

**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
All the children of the earth,
They are precious from their birth.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

One: Let us, as members of Community Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ by joining together to welcome the newest member of Christ's Church.

Many: We welcome you with joy into the common life of the Body of Christ. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share in the hope and labor of Christ's Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow and journey together. Energized by God's love, may we serve as beacons of God's light in the world.

* + ✦ · + Children are invited to join Sunday School. + · ✦ · + *

Offering: "Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing"
Londonderry Air

Susan Ali,
soloist

*Doxology: "Praise God from All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OPENING OUR MINDS TO GOD'S STORY

Scripture: Mark 11:11-26 (NLT)

Doug Arneson

11 So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

12 The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.

13 He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. 14 Then Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit again!" And the disciples heard him say it.

15 When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. 17 He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

18 When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

Scripture (cont.)

19 That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

20 The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. 21 Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!"

22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. 23 I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. 24 I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. 25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

Response

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Cantique de Jean Racine"

Chancel Choir

Gabriel Fauré (English translation by Harold Heiberg)

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation,
Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,
We kneel in adoration.

O Savior, return on us Thy loving eye!
Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming,
Whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell.
And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all-illuminating,
that they may waken Thy mercy to tell!

O Christ, bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee,
Who here are gathered on penitent knee,
Accept the hymns we chant to Thine eternal glory,
and these Thy gifts we return unto Thee!

Sermon: *A Place of Prayer*

Rev. Ray Jordan

OPENING OUR LIVES TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE

Prayers of the People

One: Lord, our lives are full. They are full of noise, full of tasks, full of voices pulling us in every direction.

Many: Quiet us, O God. Help us feel your presence, even for a moment.

One: We confess that prayer is often the first thing we set aside, and the last thing we make time for.

Many: Forgive us, O God. Teach us again to seek you first, not last.

One: We confess that we sometimes treat prayer like a last resort, instead of the first place we turn.

Many: Lead us, O God. Make prayer our first instinct, not our final option.

One: Lord, you don't ask for perfect words. You ask for honest hearts.

Many: Hear us, O God. For we do not come with polished words, but with sincere hearts.

One: May this church be more than a building we visit. May it be a people who pray for one another, for our neighbors, for the world.

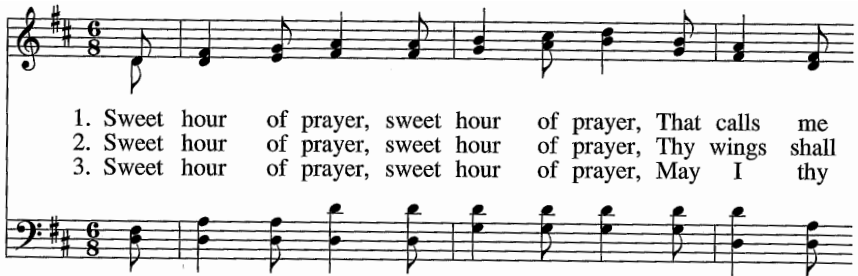
Many: Transform us, O God. Make us a people of prayer. Open our hands, quiet our hearts, and teach us to seek you above all else.

* + ✦ . + Please Pause for a Moment of Silence. + . ✦ + *

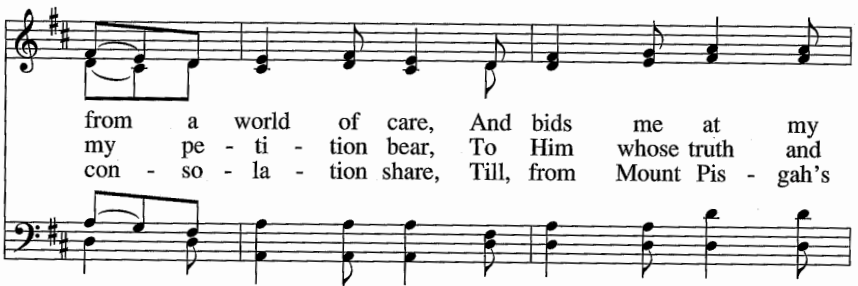
Christ's Model Prayer

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. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit



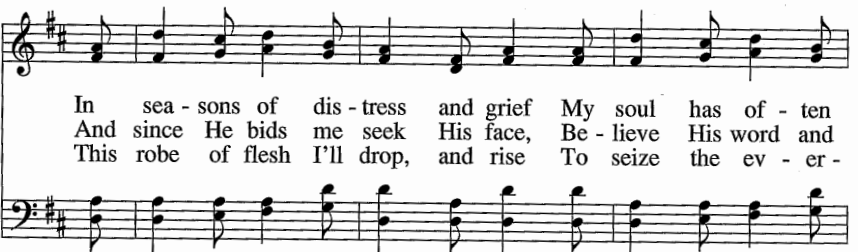
1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy



from a world of care, And bids me at my
 my pe - ti - tion bear, To Him whose truth and
 con - so - la - tion share, Till, from Mount Pis - gah's



Fa - ther's throne Make all my wants and wish - es known,
 faith - ful - ness En - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
 loft - y height, I view my home and take my flight:



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief My soul has of - ten
 And since He bids me seek His face, Be - lieve His word and
 This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the ev - er -

found re - lief, And oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare By
 trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my ev - 'ry care, And
 last - ing prize; And shout, while pass - ing through the air, "Fare-

thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
 wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
 well, fare - well, sweet hour of prayer!" A - men.

Community Reminders

*Closing Hymn: "Standing in the Need of Prayer"

#443
 (see next page)

*Benediction

Benediction Response: "The Peace of God"
 Gerhard Schroth

Once the music for the journey begins, you're invited to sit and enjoy the music ~or~ join us for fellowship on the patio.

Music for the Journey: "Toccata in 7"
 John Rutter

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

411

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Spiritual

Spiritual

Arr. by William Farley Smith, 1941-1997

Refrain It's me,

it's me, it's me, O Lord, stand - ing in the

need of prayer. It's me, it's me, it's

Hal - le - lu - jah, Lord, it's me!

me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

Verses

1. Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
2. Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's
3. Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's

me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's
Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'God's Covenant People'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's / Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's / Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's'.

me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

D.C.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn. It continues with the treble and bass staves. The lyrics are: 'me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer. / me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer. / me, O Lord, stand - ing in the need of prayer.' The system concludes with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C.' (Da Capo).

Happy Father's Day!

Today we celebrate and honor all fathers and father figures. As a small token of appreciation, please enjoy a Life Saver treat—a sweet reminder that dads are often the "life savers" of their families through their love, guidance, and support.

May God bless you today and always!



Corona Del Mar Community Church Congregational UCC

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