



Trinity Church Rocky Hill
Tuesday Evening Prayer (25)
October 13, 2020 - 7:00 PM

**O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

MEDITATION ON JOHN CHAPTER 14:1-14

14'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. **2**In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. **4**And you know the way to the place where I am going.' **5**Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' **6**Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

8Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' **9**Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? **10**Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11**Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. **12**Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I

am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Prayers

How many of you feel out of sorts with all this social distancing? It seems as if everyone's schedules and routines are in flux. We seem to be settling into a "new normal" but are looking forward to getting back to the old normal. A prayer that has come to mind lately is the prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
the courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
Amen.*

Calm, Peaceful, Untroubled

Serenity is defined as "the state of being calm, peaceful and untroubled." Asking God to grant us serenity in these trying times is not always easy, especially as the busyness of constant activity has been the *modus operandi* of the culture. However, serenity provides shelter amidst the storm of uncertainty. It requests that we "accept the things we cannot change and to have the courage to change the things we can."

We cannot change the mandated online schooling that has been put into place in so many cities. We cannot change the reality that there are no public Masses at our churches. We cannot change the rules and guidelines that governors and mayors have put into place for the sake of public safety. The list could continue and cause even further lamentations.

Still, there are things that we can change: our attitudes, renewed trust in God, quality time with our family, and even, inner stillness.

'By Waiting and Calm You Shall be Saved'

Once it is accepted that serenity is needed, the trickiest part is having "the wisdom to know the difference" between what I am in control of and what I ought to surrender. Fr. Jacques Phillippe, in *Searching for and Maintaining Peace*, spoke of this surrender and wisdom by saying: "Often, we cause ourselves to become agitated and disturbed by trying to resolve everything by ourselves, when it would be more efficacious to remain

peacefully before the gaze of God and to allow Him to act and work in us with His wisdom and power, which are infinitely superior to ours.

For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved; in quiet and in trust your strength lies, but you would have none of it."

- Isaiah 30:15

One Day at a Time

The second part of the prayer asks for God's help in "living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace." Imagine if we lived this reality, how much more peace we would attain? If we accept the hardships that have come with this state of living i.e., alterations in schedules, jobs, finances, etc. we can encounter greater peace or at least be on the "pathway toward it."

Pope Francis, in his worldwide message on Friday, March 27, spoke of the serenity God provides when he said: *"Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies."* Worry and fears isolate, but Jesus tells us that *"I am with you always until the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20).

Let us pray for one another and trust in the Lord Jesus, seeking to maintain or recover that interior peace.

A Prayer About the Coronavirus Outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

For Those in Isolation

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

SILENT PRAYER

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**