

Week One + Monday Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You created the day and the night, O God;
you set the sun and the moon in their places;
you set the limits of the earth;
you made summer and winter. (Ps.74:16,17, GNB)

Psalm 119: 1

Be good to your servant so I can go on living
and keeping your word.
Open my eyes so I can examine
the wonders of your Instruction!
I'm an immigrant in the land.
Don't hide your commandments from me!
I'm worn out by longing
every minute for your rules!
You rebuke the arrogant, accursed people
who stray from your commandments.
Take all their insults and contempt away from me
because I've kept your laws!
Even if rulers gather and scheme against me,
your servant will contemplate your statutes!
Yes, your laws are my joy—
they are my most trusted advisors!

Psalm 50

From the rising of the sun to where it sets,
God, the Lord God, speaks,
calling out to the earth.
From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines brightly.

Our God is coming;
he won't keep quiet.
A devouring fire is before him;
a storm rages all around him.
God calls out to the skies above
and to the earth in order to judge his people:

“Bring my faithful to me,
those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
The skies proclaim his righteousness
because God himself is the judge.

“Listen, my people, I will now speak;
Israel, I will now testify against you.
I am God—your God!

I'm not punishing you for your sacrifices
or for your entirely burned offerings,
which are always before me.

I won't accept bulls from your house
or goats from your corrals
because every forest animal already belongs to me,
as do the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know every mountain bird;
even the insects in the fields are mine.

Even if I were hungry, I wouldn't tell you
because the whole world and everything in it already
belong to me.
Do I eat bulls' meat?
Do I drink goats' blood?

Offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving!
Fulfill the promises you made to the Most High!
Cry out to me whenever you are in trouble;

I will deliver you, then you will honor me.”

But to the wicked God says,
“Why do you talk about my laws?
Why do you even mention my covenant?
You hate discipline, and
you toss my words behind your back.

You make friends with thieves whenever you see one;
you spend your time with adulterers.
You set your mouth free to do evil,
then harness your tongue to tell lies.
You sit around, talking about your own siblings;
you find fault with the children of your very own
mother.

You’ve done these things and I’ve kept quiet.
You thought I was just like you!
But now I’m punishing you;
I’m laying it all out, right in front of your face.

So consider this carefully, all you who forget God,
or I’ll rip you to pieces with no one to deliver you:
The one who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving is the
one who honors me.
And it is to the one who charts the correct path that I
will show divine salvation.”

Psalm 82

God takes his stand in the divine council;
he gives judgment among the gods:

“How long will you judge unjustly
by granting favor to the wicked?
Give justice to the lowly and the orphan;
maintain the right of the poor and the destitute!

Rescue the lowly and the needy.
Deliver them from the power of the wicked!

They don’t know; they don’t understand;
they wander around in the dark.
All the earth’s foundations shake.

I hereby declare, “You are gods,
children of the Most High—all of you!
But you will die like mortals;
you will fall down like any prince.”

Rise up, God! Judge the earth
because you hold all nations in your possession!

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord of heavenly forces!
My very being longs, even yearns,
for the Lord’s courtyards.
My heart and my body
will rejoice out loud to the living God!

Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there;
the swallow has found herself a nest
where she can lay her young beside your altars,
Lord of heavenly forces, my king, my God!

Those who live in your house are truly happy;
they praise you constantly.
Those who put their strength in you are truly happy;
pilgrimage is in their hearts.

As they pass through the Baca Valley,
they make it a spring of water.
Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings.

They go from strength to strength,
until they see the supreme God in Zion.

Lord God of heavenly forces,
hear my prayer;
listen closely, Jacob's God!
Look at our shield, God;
pay close attention to the face of your anointed one!

Better is a single day in your courtyards
than a thousand days anywhere else!
I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my
God's house
than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked!

The Lord is a sun and shield;
God is favor and glory.
The Lord gives—doesn't withhold!—good things
to those who walk with integrity.
Lord of heavenly forces,
those who trust in you are truly happy!

Psalm 85

Lord, you've been kind to your land;
you've changed Jacob's circumstances for the
better.
You've forgiven your people's wrongdoing;
you've covered all their sins.
You've stopped being furious;
you've turned away from your burning anger.

You, the God who can save us, restore us!
Stop being angry with us!
Will you be mad at us forever?
Will you prolong your anger from one generation to
the next?

Won't you bring us back to life again
so that your people can rejoice in you?
Show us your faithful love, Lord!
Give us your salvation!

Let me hear what the Lord God says,
because he speaks peace to his people and to his
faithful ones.
Don't let them return to foolish ways.
God's salvation is very close to those who honor him
so that his glory can live in our land.

Faithful love and truth have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth springs up from the ground;
righteousness gazes down from heaven.

Yes, the Lord gives what is good,
and our land yields its produce.
Righteousness walks before God,
making a road for his steps.

Psalm 5

Hear my words, Lord!
Consider my groans!
Pay attention to the sound of my cries, my king and
my God, because I am praying to you!

Lord, in the morning you hear my voice.
In the morning I lay it all out before you.
Then I wait expectantly.

Because you aren't a God
who enjoys wickedness;
evil doesn't live with you.
Arrogant people won't last long

in your sight;

You hate all evildoers;
you destroy liars.

The Lord despises people who are violent and dishonest.

But me? I will enter your house
because of your abundant, faithful love;
I will bow down at your holy temple,
honoring you.

Lord, because of many enemies,
please lead me in your righteousness.
Make your way clear,
right in front of me.

Because there's no truth in my enemies' mouths,
all they have inside them is destruction.
Their throats are open graves;
their tongues slick with talk.

Condemn them, God!
Let them fail by their own plans.
Throw them out for their many sins
because they've rebelled against you.

But let all who take refuge in you celebrate.
Let them sing out loud forever!

Protect them
so that all who love your name
can rejoice in you.

Because you, Lord, bless the righteous.
You cover them with favor like a shield.

Psalm 29

You, divine beings! Give to the Lord—
give to the Lord glory and power!
Give to the Lord the glory due his name!
Bow down to the Lord in holy splendor!

The Lord's voice is over the waters;
the glorious God thunders;
the Lord is over the mighty waters.

The Lord's voice is strong;
the Lord's voice is majestic.

The Lord's voice breaks cedar trees—
yes, the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull,
makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

The Lord's voice unleashes fiery flames;
the Lord's voice shakes the wilderness—
yes, the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The Lord's voice convulses the oaks,
strips the forests bare,
but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters;
the Lord sits enthroned—king forever!
Let the Lord give strength to his people!
Let the Lord bless his people with peace!

Psalm 71

I've taken refuge in you, Lord.
Don't let me ever be put to shame!
Deliver me and rescue me by your righteousness!
Bend your ear toward me and save me!

Be my rock of refuge
where I can always escape.

You commanded that my life be saved
because you are my rock and my fortress.
My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked;
rescue me from the grip of the wrongdoer and the
oppressor

Because you are my hope, Lord.
You, Lord, are the one I've trusted since childhood.
I've depended on you from birth—
you cut the cord when I came from my mother's
womb.
My praise is always about you.

I've become an example to many people
because you are my strong refuge.
My mouth is filled with your praise,
glorifying you all day long.
Don't cast me off in old age.
Don't abandon me when my strength is used up!

Yes, my enemies have been talking about me;
those who stalk me plot together:
"God has abandoned him!
Pursue him!
Grab him because no one will deliver him!"
Don't be far from me, God!
My God, hurry to help me!

Let my accusers be put to shame,
completely finished off!
Let those who seek my downfall
be dressed in insults and disgrace!

But me? I will hope. Always.
I will add to all your praise.
My mouth will repeat your righteous acts

and your saving deeds all day long.
I don't even know how many of those there are!

I will dwell on your mighty acts, my Lord.
Lord, I will help others remember nothing but your
righteous deeds.
You've taught me since my youth, God,
and I'm still proclaiming your wondrous deeds!

So, even in my old age with gray hair,
don't abandon me, God!
Not until I tell generations about your mighty arm,
tell all who are yet to come about your strength,
and about your ultimate righteousness, God,
because you've done awesome things!
Who can compare to you, God?

You, who have shown me many troubles and
calamities,
will revive me once more.
From the depths of the earth,
you will raise me up one more time.

Please increase my honor
and comfort me all around.
Then I'll give you thanks with a harp—
I will thank you for your faithfulness, my God.

I will make music for you with the lyre, holy one of
Israel.
My lips will rejoice aloud when I make music for you;
my whole being, which you saved, will do the same.

My tongue, also, will tell of your righteousness all day
long, because those who seek my downfall
have been put to shame and disgraced.

Morning Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

“Let us bless God, the father of our Lord, King Jesus; he is the father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our trouble, so that we can then comfort people in every kind of trouble, through the comfort with which God comforts us. Just as we have an overflowing share of the Messiah’s sufferings, you see, so we have an overflowing share in comfort through the Messiah.”

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
and we will live this day in joy and praise.

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

- Especially we thank you for
- the miracle of life and the wonder of living . . .
- particular blessings coming to us in this day . . .
- the resources of the earth . . .
- gifts of creative vision and skillful craft . . .
- the treasure stored in every human life. . .

We dare to pray for others, God our Savior, claiming your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world, committing ourselves to care for those around us in his name.

- Especially we pray for
- those who work for the benefit of others . . .
- those who cannot work today . . .
- those who teach and those who learn . . .

- people who are poor . . .
- the church in Europe. . .

Today we remember fellow members and friends of FPCB:

Thomas, Erin & Evelyn Williams, Robert Williams & Linda Lacombe-Williams, Jimmy & Jackie Williams, Winnie Wilks; Chris, Elizabeth, Cate & Laura Wilhelm; Georgia Whyte; Kurt, Diana, DJ, Desiree, Trey & Lyla Wicker; Gene & Connie Whitacre; Roger & Karen Weber, Kevin, Callie, Molly & Ben Weber; Greg, Donna & Hunter Bassett; David & Peggy Bishop; Eric, Beth, Olivia & Sophia Blicher; Richard & Kris Boettger; Bob & Nancy Bolt, Jack & Teri Botts; Gary & Alicia Braddock; San, Debbie, Trey & Michelle Bradshaw; Debbie Brookins...

Our Father...

As you cause the sun to rise, O God,
bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls and dispel all darkness.
Give us grace to reflect Christ’s glory;
and let his love show in our deeds,
his peace shine in our words,
and his healing in our touch,
that all may give him praise, now and forever.

*May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen*

References:

Psalms from the Common English Bible
Corinthians reading from Kingdom New Testament, trans. by NT Wright
Prayers from Book of Common Worship