

What is prayer?

We are as a community of faith, nurtured in the Word and sustained in prayer.

Standing firm in the Lord means that we are willing to pray that we might have the strength to do what needs to be done - is as much an attitude as it is an action. Enabled (Blessed) to act to be an answer at least some of the prayers we have prayed and to go and do as the Spirit leads us.

Prayer is that anchor that will not allow us to drift - based on trust in God, that our prayers are heard and responded to - experiencing answered prayer which gives rise to hope that will not disappoint. Do not base trust on experience alone but on the Word, which is the experience of the community - who have ridden out the storms while anchored firm and deep in the love of God our Saviour.

Hope is our support and strength in prayer because we have a hope that will not disappoint not because we have a faith in faith (which is idolatrous) or that we have managed a well-crafted Creed - we have hope because have been loved by God first and we have been loved with an everlasting love.

We are compelled to pray because of what we see and what we know - the possibilities of God and of God at work in the life of the community and of the individuals. God binds us to his power and grace so that he can do more than we can ask or imagine and in it all God is working out our salvation as we serve in fear and trembling.

Prayer is more than a laundry list we shove at God in Personal and Corporate worship - more than the words and the silences we keep; it is the attitude which we carry with us in everyday life and by which God guides us so that we might serve him in his world.

Know that you are being led, even if you don't always know where you are going. (God is going to rescue me.) Prayer is essential to administration - it is the strength that you and others will walk in and on.

Prayer is the means by which God draws us into and grows his agenda and he works out our transformation - personally and corporately. We believe in what we pray for and what we pray for is what we believe in (Lex, lex.)

We do not suddenly become great paragons of ecclesiastical work because we can pray - prayer is not easier nor do prayers get answered faster because we do ministry. Ordination cannot make you more virtuous or pious except for a short time in other people's eyes. There is always room for growth and there is need for pruning, picking rocks, tilling the soil and weeding too.

- What is congregational prayer?
- Molding the intercessions to fit your congregation.
- Writing your own litanies