



2015 GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

(A focus of prayer for the world)

by Rev. Dan Maurer

These resources may be used in part or as a whole to lead God's people in joining with His heart for the people of the world. Consider adapting the resources according to the personality of your group, always keeping in mind the purpose is to join with Almighty God in His plans for the world – not to assert our own agenda.

As a pastor / leader, bringing your people into God's presence:

- Give each person a blank piece of paper as they enter the room. Instruct them to write down the words, pictures or Scriptures God's Holy Spirit impresses on their mind throughout the service.
- Remind the people their prayers will focus on all areas of responsibility given by Jesus to His disciples: our city / town / community, our state, our nation, our world.
- Remind the people that as Christ-followers, Jesus' Church, pastors / leaders we are to pray with purity of heart, spiritual power, courage, willingness to join God where and how He is at work.
- Remind the people of what is important to God, of God's heart for the world:
 - Salvation / new life (Ephesians 2:1-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Restoration of God's Kingdom authority (The Lord's Prayer: "... Your kingdom come, Your will be done ...") Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4
 - Christ-followers living in "the unity of His Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3)

Sample Order of Service

Suggested Songs

"Open Up the Heavens" - Meredith Andrews, 2013

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - Hymnal #1

"10,000 Reasons" ("Bless the Lord") - Matt Redman, 2012

"Forever Reign" - Hillsong, 2010

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NLT)

Leader Prayer

"Heavenly Father, we are gathered in Your Almighty presence, as Your people. There is no other God like You. You are full of love, mercy and forgiveness. You invite us into relationship with You, and You restore Your creation to Your best plan. You are the God who heals what is broken, who brings

CONNECT WITH
GOD'S HEART
FOR THE WORLD

joy where there is heartache. Your ways are blameless and holy. And with all that, You have invited US – Your people – to join You where You are at work in our world.

Almighty God, we are humbled before You. Surround us with your presence. Fill us with Your Spirit's power. We know Your plans are best. So each of us submits to Your authority ...”

Instruct each person to speak words of praise to Almighty God. Aloud is preferred, even if it is uncomfortable. Fill the room with sounds of adoration. After two minutes, the leader may conclude in prayer.

Suggested Songs

“Joy” - Brittney Kershner, 2014

“Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down” - Hymnal #14

“I Will Call upon the Lord” - Hymnal #38

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” - Hymnal #59

Leader Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bow our lives before You. We admit that so often we act as if we are capable and in-charge. Our mouths say we love You, but so often our actions betray us. We say we love our neighbors, but out of fear we keep Your love to ourselves. We say we care for Your kingdom, yet so often we try and build our own.

You trust us with resources to steward, but so often we're tempted to care more for our own comfort. And we get so easily sucked into our culture's expectations of pursuing “good things,” but ignore Your commands to join you where You're at work.

Father, forgive us, we humbly ask. Create in us a pure heart. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation. We truly want to be re-aligned with Your agenda in our world.

We are grateful for Your new life, but bow before – and recommit ourselves to – Your plans and purposes in the lives of the people of our world.

And so we pray together, as one voice, the prayer You used to teach us to pray, Lord Jesus:

(UNISON) “Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy.

May Your kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.”

A short teaching on Ephesians 3:14-21 can be used here, if desired, focusing on verse 16 – “He will empower you ...” We can expect God to do “immeasurably more ...” (Jeremiah 32:27; 33:3)

Read Ephesians 3:14-21, Jeremiah 32:27, 33:3

Suggested Songs

"Oceans" ("Where Feet May Fail") - Hillsong United, 2013

"Cleanse Me" - Hymnal #438

"If My People's Hearts Are Humbled" - Hymnal #574

Leader Prayer

Holy God, throughout Scripture You have promised to respond to the heart-felt cries of Your people. You have promised that if we honestly seek You, we will find You. And You have given us the high and holy privilege of joining in Your work in the world.

So, with Your promises already assured, Lord, we simply and humbly ask You to show Your power, to bring Your glory ... to redeem what's been broken, and to unleash Your beauty, hope and new life into the lives and situations of our world.

Divide the entire group into clusters of three. Instruct each triad to pray aloud to create a symphony pleasing to the Lord. Instruct them to pray their way through the "Suggested Prayer Topics" below.

Also instruct the clusters to:

- *push beyond what is comfortable or perhaps their cultural norm, and to pray with expectation and power.*
- *remember they are God's people, doing HIS work, for His sake.*
- *pray for whatever God's Spirit brings to their mind.*

Instruct each participant to write down a short descriptor of each idea prayed for. Record specifically any Scriptures that come to mind or are spoken. These pages will serve as a later reminder of what God seems to be speaking through His people. After 15-20 minutes, the leader may conclude in prayer.

Suggested Prayer Topics *(These are simply ideas. Add to your prayers whatever the Spirit brings to your mind.)*

- Around the world – Jesus' Church, poverty, conflicts, justice, etc.
- In our country – Jesus' Church, government, cultural division, poverty, etc.
- In our state – Jesus' Church, leadership, educators, etc.
- In our city/area – Jesus' Church, public servants, workers, etc.
- In our homes and families

Suggested Songs

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" - *Hymn #371*

"Christ for the World We Sing" - *Samuel Wolcott, 1869*

Unison Reading Psalm 145

Leader Prayer

"Heavenly Father, You have heard our prayers. We understand we were not simply speaking to the ceiling, but to YOU, the Living God. We simply thank You for how You will answer these cries of our hearts. We don't pretend to have all the answers – but You do. And so we trust You to bring Your redemption and healing in ways we can't even conceive.

Fill us up, Lord, with Your beauty and power. We choose to boldly join You. As You speak we will listen and obey. In fact, we declare we belong to You. We say 'Yes' – in advance – to You. Since You have not taken us home to Heaven yet, we will do anything, with anyone, at any time, in any place, for any reason ... that You tell us.

In Jesus' name ... Amen."

Suggested Songs

"Open Up the Heavens" - *Meredith Andrews, 2013*

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" - *Hymnal #8*

"The Lord Has Heard and Answered Prayer" - *William B. Bradbury, 1843*

Note: All hymnal page numbers refer to the hymnal for the Free Methodist Church: "The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration."