

WEDNESDAY March 11, 2015	THURSDAY March 12, 2015	FRIDAY March 13, 2015
<p>Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wastelands. (Isaiah 43:18-19)</p> <p>We long for peace where there is unrest, healing where there is brokenness, and hope where there is desperation. In the current state of our communities and world, it is easy for us to lose hope and wonder if God is present at all. In these moments, may we be reminded of God's constant and faithful presence and the reality that God continues the work of calling all of creation back to relationship with God. Hope and resurrection are springing up around us and we are invited to participate in this kingdom work.</p> <p><i>Jesus, help us to have patient eyes and open hearts to see You at work in our communities and the global community. Enlarge our capacities and imaginations to join You in pushing Your kingdom forward.</i></p>	<p>The followers had gathered together with the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "May you have peace." ...When the followers saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. (John 20:19,20b)</p> <p>Conflict, disease, abuse, injustice, evil, death – these have a way of keeping us trapped. There is a paralysis behind that door and we feel helpless, afraid to make a move. But Jesus always makes the first move and he is always on the move. Wherever he goes he brings peace. It's impossible to bow to fear when the eyes of our heart are fixed on the power of the resurrected Christ. We can be filled with joy today because are filled with His power and invited to be His peace and joy for others.</p> <p><i>Jesus, your love breaks us open. You have a way of breaking sadness and fear and opening us wider to joy and peace. In these uncertain times, in these dark days of waiting for your resurrection, we ask you for more of Your love to break us and open us. With deep gratitude and abiding hearts we ask this in your Name. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'" (Exodus 8:1)</p> <p>Earthly rulers and laws impact the peace and justice millions experience. At times, God calls his people to speak to those entrusted with earthly power. To whom might God be calling you to speak, today? Consider the political leaders (national and/or local) that you can encourage or challenge, in order to speak up for justice and peace.</p> <p><i>Lord Jesus, today I pray for my political leaders. In the midst of the pressure they feel from so many people and interest groups, help them to make courageous decisions that foster peace and justice in our world. Give me the courage and wisdom to know when and how to both challenge and encourage these leaders.</i></p>
SATURDAY March 14, 2015	MONDAY March 16, 2015	TUESDAY March 17, 2015
<p>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13:3-5)</p> <p>On the night of Christ's betrayal in the ultimate act of service Jesus bowed down and served the very people he had come to give his life for. It is so easy in life to live with an attitude that says, "how can others serve me?" Instead, Christ models an ongoing sacrificial spirit of giving oneself for another in all seasons of life.</p> <p><i>Help me, Lord, to live my life like Jesus lived his – loving and serving the people I meet each and every day. May I be known as someone who serves like Jesus did.</i></p>	<p>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. (Ephesians 1: 18–19a)</p> <p>To be... church... is to stand shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand with many people, who have both differences from one another and this one common inheritance of hope. It is this inheritance of hope that gives us power in a world filled with strife, conflict, fear and uncertainty. May your heart today be stirred as you reflect on the strength of the hope we have and His power at work for us, the children of God.</p> <p><i>Lord, may I never forget that I am Your child and with that I receive Your hope, a glorious inheritance and Your incomparably great power. May I believe.</i></p>	<p>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:8–11)</p> <p>We often think that being in darkness means engaging with attitudes and sins we personally find offensive. What if darkness is simpler? What if it's allowing anything other than Christ to be the primary influence in our life? As followers of Jesus we are called to follow him in full, to put away the attitudes and behaviors of the flesh... to pursue that which is pleasing to God, to pursue the likeness of Christ.</p> <p><i>Lord, help me this day to pursue that which honours You. Shape my attitude to be that of Jesus who did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made Himself nothing. May I follow that Christ fully this day.</i></p>