

WEDNESDAY   February 18, 2015	THURSDAY   February 19, 2015	FRIDAY   February 20, 2015
<p><b>And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)</b></p> <p>While watching the news, we can be overwhelmed with all that is wrong in our world. It becomes easy to shift our focus away from God and towards worry, anxiety and fear. Taking time to settle our spirits by spending time with God allows Him to guard and guide our hearts and minds. It allows us to be open to ways we can be peacemakers in our spheres of influence.</p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, I pray in the quiet times that You open my heart and mind to hear Your word. Show me how to be an example of peace to my family, friends, and co-workers.</i></p>	<p><b>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1,2)</b></p> <p>The concept of peace with God can sometimes be abstract and seem far off, especially when we are in the midst of a personal conflict. When we look at the world it can be hard to see the hope of the glory of God. We do however have peace with God through Jesus; we should step out in faith to be a peacemaker.</p> <p><i>Father, thank You for sending Your son to show us the way of peace. I pray that You use me to reconcile relationships and bring peace to those around me.</i></p>	<p><b>Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)</b></p> <p>God can seem very far away as we look around and see wars, outbreaks of disease, and the ongoing suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world. We do not feel like rejoicing. We can be comforted when we realize the God of love and peace is with us and is also comforting those who are suffering.</p> <p><i>Lord, the world can often be confusing and I don't always understand why there is so much suffering. I pray that You bring comfort and peace to those who are experiencing trauma and hardship so they may be made whole.</i></p>
SATURDAY   February 21, 2015	MONDAY   February 23, 2015	TUESDAY   February 24, 2015
<p><b>Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. (Isaiah 55:1)</b></p> <p>We have all felt weary at one time or another – whether spiritually, emotionally, mentally, or physically. Far too often we try to find strength and rest in my own abilities, instead of acknowledging that we are deeply dependent on the love and grace of Jesus. We are invited to bring all of our mess and uncertainty to Jesus who redefines our identity as children of God. May we choose to live a life that dwells in the rhythm of love, grace, and freedom, found through Christ alone.</p> <p><i>Jesus, I humbly come to You and offer all of my burdens to You. I admit that this life is far too easily weighed down and ask that You would help me come to You in every moment of life. Let me be a living testimony of the peace and love that is found in following You. I pray for opportunities to share this truth with those around me.</i></p>	<p><b>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:16-19)</b></p> <p>It is easy to acknowledge the injustices and brokenness in our communities and world. Paul reminds us that because we ourselves are reconciled to God through Jesus, we now have the responsibility of living the message of reconciliation. We labor and do the hard work of reconciliation when we choose to view others, not from a worldly point of view, but from the reality that we all have been created in the image of God and are loved.</p> <p><i>Jesus, I pray that You would help me to begin praying and extending peace to my enemies. May my ministry of reconciliation begin with acknowledging Your gift and living a life of reconciliation among my family, neighbors, peers, church, and greater community.</i></p>	<p><b>When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4)</b></p> <p>For all of us, there are moments in life when we experience fear. To be afraid is a natural, understandable experience as we come up against certain situations. The question is: What to do I do when I am afraid as a follower of Jesus? The words of King David can help us with the answer: I will trust in God! Our loving God invites us to not give into fear or begin to become consumed by it, but rather, to turn to Him, lean on Him, and look to Him for His grace and peace to move us beyond the fear. Then we can begin to consider next steps, guided by his Spirit, that will reflect our faith and not our fear.</p> <p><i>Loving God, there are many things happening right now that cause me to be afraid and I am thankful I can tell You that! But, Lord, I want to trust in You and rely on Your grace to help me overcome this fear and move forward in ways that honour You. I choose to trust and praise You rather than give into fear. Amen.</i></p>