



Praying the Nines
Lenten Prayer Book

The Season of Lent

In the Season of Lent (the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter [excluding Sundays]), we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us. Rather than give something up for Lent, like chocolate or coffee, the Prayer Ministry of the Congregational Care Committee suggests that, together, we take on the spiritual discipline of praying daily with, and for, each other and our community at 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. (Praying on the Nines) (or another time if that works better for you and your family). The idea is that our GPC family of faith is all praying to God together at some time during each day.

During Lent, we also remember that we are elemental creatures made of dust, and so we pray for strength for this journey that we embark upon together.

Please pick up the weekly Praying on the Nines prayer in the Narthex, each Sunday, either before or after worship.

To get us started, here is ...

A Prayer for the Beginning of Lent

*God of the journey
who calls us to travel with faith,
who reminds us we are dust
yet breathes into us the breath of life,
hear our prayer.*

*Bearer of the Sun,
draw us into your heart of fire,
that we may have light to uncover
the unremembered stories
and strength to endure their telling.*

*Creator of the world,
awaken us to the blessedness of earth,
that we may honor those who once dwelled
along these paths that we now travel.*

*Spirit who hovered
over the face of the deep,
lead us to your life-giving waters,
that we may give our tears to the depths
and find refreshment and delight.*

*Helper who breathes life into each new generation,
surround us with the winds of your spirit,
and may we bear with tenderness the stories that they bear.*

Amen.

(Jan L. Richardson)

Praying the Nines

First Week in Lent (Matthew 4:1-11)



*Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve,
your Word and Spirit sustain us in the wilderness.
Keep us faithful in times of struggle and testing,
so that we may enter into your glorious realm
with Jesus Christ our Savior.*

*This week we pray together for our city – our home – our Memphis:
may there be peace within our city gates, and may it begin with us.
In Christ's name we pray together, saying Amen.*

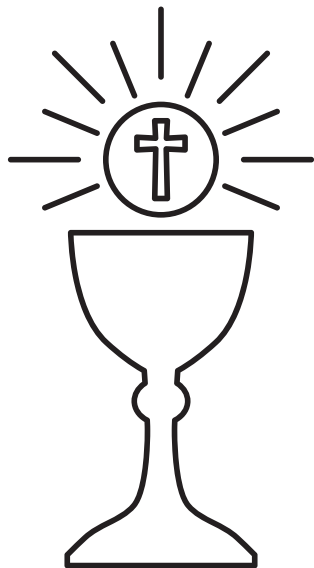
Second Week in Lent

(John 3:1-17)

Praying the Nines

*God of great love,
you alone can take away the sting of sin
and remove the venom of death.
Show us a sign of your saving power in Jesus Christ,
so that we may believe in him
and receive the gift of eternal life.
This week we pray together for teachers and administrators;
students and parents, too.
May each one know of your abiding love,
and then share it with one another through
their actions, which reflect your love.
Through Christ, our healer and redeemer,
we pray together, saying Amen.
God of great love,*

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and remove the venom of death.
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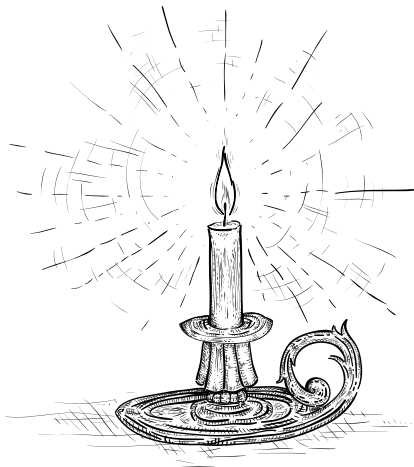


*God of spirit and truth,
you alone satisfy our dry and weary souls.
Let us drink from the spring of your mercy
so that we may never be thirsty
for the gift of your saving love.
This week we pray together for those
in the senior years of their life journeys.
Bless each one, we pray, with all they need
for the facing of each new day;
may they know the steadfastness of your abiding presence.
Through Jesus Christ, the water of life, we pray together,
saying Amen.*

Fourth Week in Lent

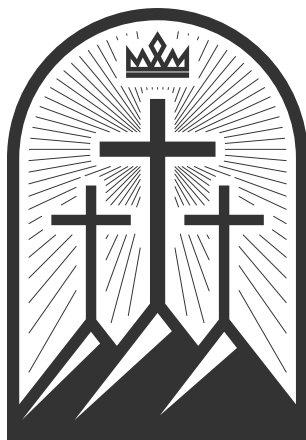
(John 9:1-41)

Praying the Nines



*Gracious God, giver of all light and vision,
by your Word you made the day and night.
Let your wondrous work be revealed in us
so that your glory might shine like the sun.
This week we pray together for your earth –
your whole wide world.*

*May we be the good stewards you call us to be,
caring for it tenderly through our works to restore,
recycle, and reuse all that we can.
Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world,
we pray together, saying Amen.*



*Christ our Savior, you call us by name,
leading us from death into eternal life.*

*Awaken and unbind us by your Word,
so that we may live and grow in faith,
sharing your saving love with others;
for you are the resurrection and the life.*

*This week we pray together for your devoted disciples,
carrying the good news of your gospel message
into all corners of our community, our state, our country, and your world.
May we be among them, caring for the least, visiting the imprisoned,
binding up the brokenhearted, healing the sick, feeding the hungry.
And, as we move from the exuberance of Palm Sunday,
through Holy Week, that culminates in the darkness of Good Friday,
preparing us for the joy of Easter Sunday,
may everyone know we are your disciples — your followers - by our love.
May it be so, we pray together in your name, Lord Jesus, and say Amen.*

The Caring Ministry Team of the Congregational Care Committee



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