

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday February 25, 2007

Week after week, we've noted some of whom the writer to the Hebrews calls a "great cloud of witnesses" cheering us on as, in our turn, we run the race for Christ. Today, from among those surrounding saints, we hear George Whitefield, on this day in 1738, call out these encouraging words: "God has a people everywhere." Where his people are, there he is – always. So as we run this good race for Christ, let's not forget that God "in his loving kindness, will meet us at every corner" of the course. Let us pray.

Sovereign God and our gracious Heavenly Father:

Thank you for Your grace and peace in Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ – "the same, yesterday, today and forever". We praise You that He's with our ancestors of that "faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints". We praise You that He's here with us as we worship in that faith this morning. We praise You that He's with our descendents in that faith, before they're born or yet have come to faith. He's behind us, alongside us and out there ahead of us, all the way Home. For He promised: "I'm with you always".

And we thank You that our earliest brothers and sisters in Christ are here with us today, for they're with You, and You're with us, in Christ. We thank You that all contemporary sisters and brothers are here with us today, whether in the freedom to witness and worship without restraint or under persecution and imprisonment for the testimony of Christ, for You're with them all and You're with us, in Christ. And we thank You, too, that brothers and sisters yet unborn and yet not born from above, are here with us, this morning, for Your grace in Christ Jesus extends throughout all time and everywhere.

We ask Your continued blessings as we move forth, beyond the familiarity of this assembly. We ask Your continued blessings upon Your "good and faithful servant" who has lived and preached Your grace among us over these fourteen faithful years. Thank You for going ahead of him, and ahead of us as well, as You always have and will, meeting us at every corner. In the race that is yet marked out before us, may we run with disciplined patience and good faith, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep, and loving one another as our Savior so dearly loved us and called us to love.

And now, yet again, we add the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray to You, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.