

# **The City Church, New York**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday November 5, 2006**

Billy Graham's "Hour of Decision" program was first televised on this day in 1950.

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, Eternal Love:

We praise You for who You are and for Your creating us to glory in You and to joy in You forever. That's why we're here today. We're here to glory – all together – in Your loving Presence and to look forward – all together – to joy in Your Presence forevermore.

Yet, Lord, as we've acknowledged, we can be negligent of Your Love. We can distract ourselves in ourselves and neglect You and all the others whom You love every bit as much as You love us. So remind us again that we, and they, are valuable because we, and they, are created in Your image and loved into eternal life through Your death and resurrection. May we, again this morning, renew the eternal covenant You made with us in Eden and at Ur of the Chaldees, at Sinai and up on Mount Calvary. We praise You for Your faithfulness from before You made all worlds and unto all the ages of ages to come.

Lord, Your love is our very life and we are dead without You. Enliven us to Your love again this morning. Quicken the hearts and minds of all assembled here. For those who need to know once more that You do, indeed, love them far more than they know, assure them of that. For those who need to know – perhaps for the first time – that You really do love them far more than they ever before took seriously, assure them of that. May we be open to all the love You offer us all, that we might love You and each other through it.

Lord, today, we're reminded of Your ministry through our brother, Billy. We thank You for his faithfully preaching the truly Good News of Christ Jesus over all these years. Thank You for Your saving the many souls who made decisions for the One who made His eternal decision for them before the foundation of the world.

Lord, make this hour, here and now, also an hour of decision. May it be an hour in which we might hear the Gospel anew and say "yes" to Your eternal "Yes" to us. Be with us as we seek then to live that "yes" in lives of loving obedience and service.

We ask this in Jesus' name and add the prayer he taught his disciples to pray, 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.