

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday February 11, 2007

On this day in 1779, John Wesley wrote in a letter: "Chance has no share in this world. The Lord reigns, and prepares all things, strongly and sweetly, for the good of them that love Him." We begin our morning prayer by joining with our brother John in words he prayed in his day. We pray them in our day. And our Father hears both prayers in His Eternal Present and in His never failing Love.

Let us pray.

"Fix Thou our steps, O Lord, that we stagger not at the uneven motions of the world, but steadily go on to our glorious home; neither censuring our journey by the weather we meet with, nor turning out of the way for anything that befalls us. The winds are often rough, and our own weight presses us downwards. Reach forth, O Lord, thy hand, thy saving hand, and speedily deliver us. Teach us, O Lord, to use this transitory life as pilgrims returning to their beloved home, that we may take what our journey requires, and not think of settling in a foreign country."

O God: Make this our prayer. May we be faithful on this privileged pilgrimage with the saints from every time and place. May we take what the journey requires and not all the baggage of this world that's passing away. Remind us that we belong to You and to one another, if, by Your grace, we are the body of Christ and he is our Head. Since all You are is in Christ, in Christ, we're all we need to be.

We thank You for another precious hour of prayer and praise together and for the preaching of Your word in spirit and in truth. Open our minds to Your sacred word and open our hearts for the sacred adventure of joyful trust and whole-hearted obedience.

And Lord, as the days of City Church wind down to a precious few, we think of our brother John's trusting that You really do "prepare all things, strongly and sweetly" for the good of Your people. Strengthen us whom You've so richly blessed in this ministry. May we continue to stay in touch with You and with one another, that we might yet rejoice in each other's joy, weep with each other in sorrow, and share our love for Christ.

Now we thank You for answering all prayers in Your perfect will, as we pray what Jesus taught 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.