

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday December 3, 2006

Robert Louis Stevenson died at his home in Samoa on this day in 1894. We'll begin our prayer with words of prayer he wrote for his family's devotions. Let us pray.

"We beseech Thee, Lord, to behold us with favour, folk of many families and nations gathered together in the peace of this roof, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer; -- with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavours against evil, suffer us awhile longer to endure and (if it may be) help us to do better. ...

"Look down upon thy servants with a patient eye, even as Thou sendest sun and rain; look down, call upon the dry bones, quicken, enliven; recreate in us the soul of service, the spirit of peace; renew in us the sense of joy. ...

"Help us one and all to bear, and to forbear, for thy name's sake, and let this home of ours endure all strokes of enemies from without and of enemies from within, until we shall be gathered, one by one, into thy garner of the dead and resting."

Lord, thank You for our brother's guidance in prayer today. Thank You for the example of his patient acceptance of Your providence as he endured a life of poor health without complaint. Thank You for the treasured stories, poetry and prayers he left us.

Lord, today, as we here join with Christians all across this wayward world, we long for the Blessed Hope of Your triumphant return and the glorious consummation of Your Kingdom come "on earth as it is in heaven", when all the tears of time will seem as nothing, for all the world will see Your salvation, and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess: "Jesus is Lord". May we all be prepared for that trumpeting. Help us to realize even now, and more and more, that Your Kingdom is not of this world's ways and that only by Your grace and Your peace can we ever hope to know "the peace that passes all understanding". May we be disciples of that grace and peace, good citizens of Your Kingdom's coming and willing servants of Your will. Prepare us to receive You and to be received by You, as we put into practice, here and now, Your values alone.

Thank You for answering all prayer in the name of him in whose words we now pray:

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.