

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost



"Come...Be a Part of Peace!"

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

June 13, 2021

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Devotional Music

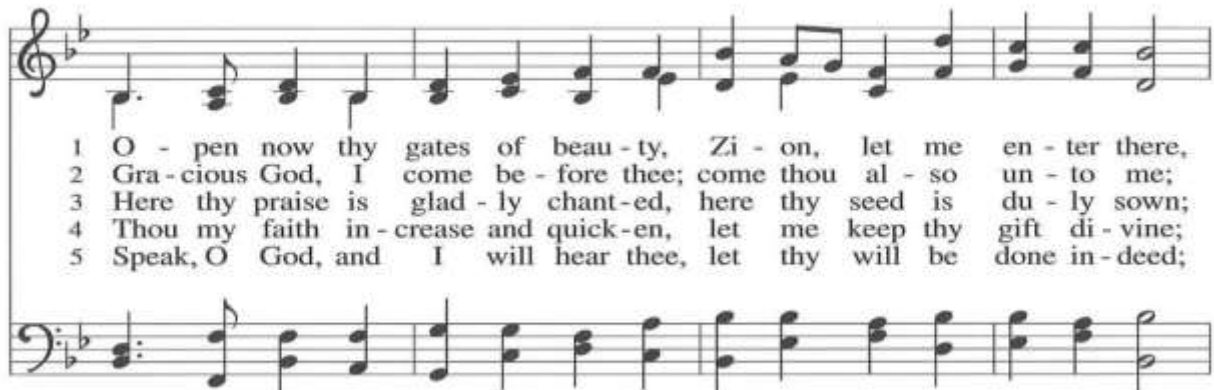
You might now sing or read "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

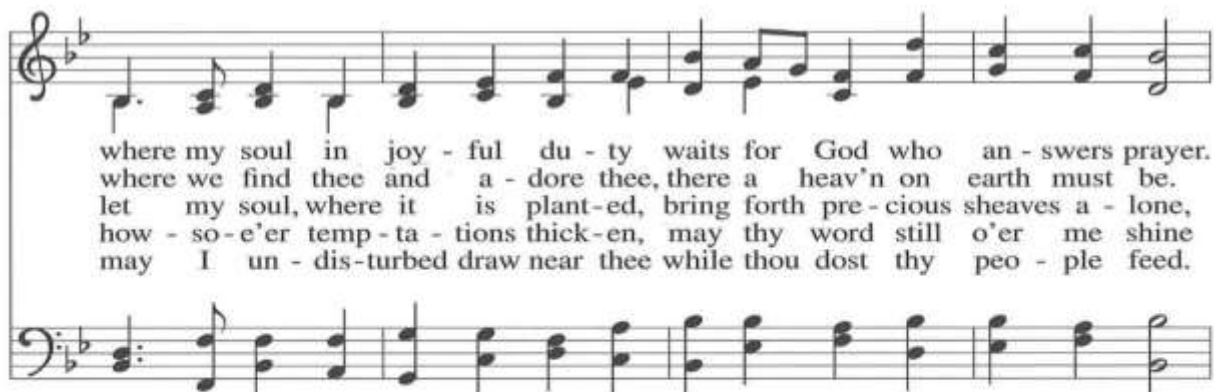
<https://youtu.be/4wfKzTuV9r8>

533

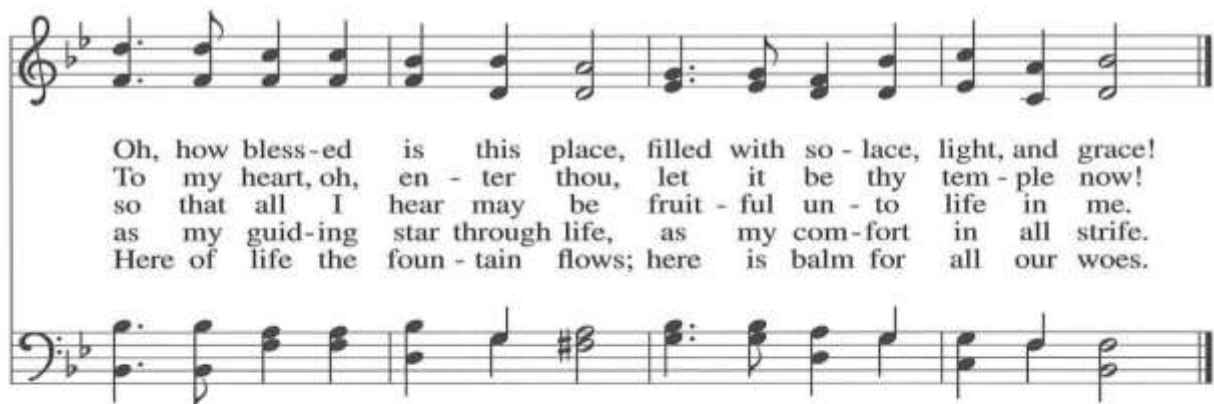
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

KYRIE

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*



*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.*

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world.
Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may
bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. R**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

Then the second reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

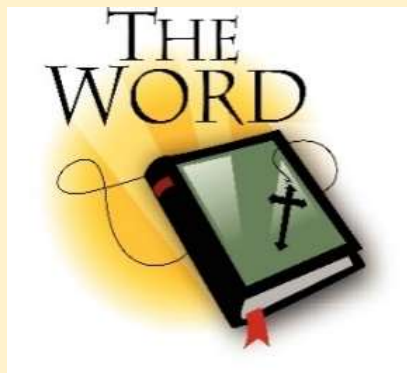
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon--Pastor Ida

“THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE...”

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jesus likes to use parables when he is talking with the crowds that surround him that come to hear him preach or when they come for healing. Parables are not always easy to understand; so many people, including his disciples, went away scratching their heads and wondering what he was trying to tell them. He does say that he explains the parables to his disciples later, but that still leave many people with questions.

This week, the Ezekiel and Mark lessons both deal with agriculture: Ezekiel with clipping off a piece of a tree and transplanting it to another location and with Mark, the planting of seeds and their outcome.

Now, I have admitted many times that I am not a gardener, but I enjoy the efforts of those who are. I had family members who were farmers and there were times that I helped to harvest the vegetable garden and even one year with the bailing of hay...that was the last summer I went to the farm. I have even milked cows by hand and when they finally got automation in the barn, I helped with that process as well. So, you might say I have a working understanding of what goes into farming. Even with our small gardens Marty and I planted, as our little patch of vegetables or fruit ripened I picked, canned or froze many pints and quarts through the years.

Have you ever thought about a seed and how there really is a great mystery involved in how it all works? A simple seed can be planted in the ground; it cracks open, breaks through the earth, grows, and then produces the grain, vegetable, or fruit, as well as new seeds, that will be used for the next crop. Many people do not know this, but there is a seed repository in Norway. It is called the Global Seed Vault, or the “Doomsday” Vault, and holds over 930,000 different seeds from around the world for food crops. It almost boggles the imagination of a person how there can be that many different varieties of seeds. Except when you think about the diversity of climates and varieties of foods that are grown around the world and the number of years, and today with all the genetic engineering of plant life, it might not be all that hard to imagine.

Let us go back to our lessons for today though. With Ezekiel, when you think about how one type of tree can be grafted on to another, or how you take a clipping from one plant put it in soil and watch it take root it can be amazing. One house we moved into years ago there had been a willow tree that had been cut down and the stump was left. A year or two later it started to look like there was a shoot of green coming

out of the middle of the stump. Well, over the twenty-two years we lived in the community, we watched as a new willow tree grew out of that stump. What a mystery of how that could have happened, but it also is a sign of hope. Birds nested in its branches; it shaded the house from the hot sun. What had seemed to be dead was alive again. Hmm, it seems like there is something biblical about that.

Now we look at Mark, and Jesus is telling those around him how the Kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground. Honestly, I just cannot imagine a farmer just scattering the seed on the ground. Seed has always been a very precious commodity; it is the difference between life and death. Even if you are scattering it on rich, good soil it does not make sense to not plant it and care for it. And yet when you are comparing it to the Kingdom of God, we are scattered around the world, different varieties and cultures, and we grow and thrive wherever we are planted so to speak. What a mystery that is.

Then thinking about the mustard seed that at the time was one of the smallest seeds and yet when planted it would grow into this great shrub and take over great sections of ground. I suddenly thought about how a small community, usually because of its location, would grow into a large metropolitan area, ever-expanding and taking over large sections of land. If you think about it, it truly is a mystery that we may never comprehend.

Yet, within that mystery there is hope. Hope that life continues. That there will be a new harvest and that there will be seeds to plant or scatter for the next harvest. That the Kingdom of God is ever present and shows itself in many and various ways. Sometime in our selfish ways we forget how blessed we are. How the continuum of life goes on, despite us.

Just as I cannot explain the mystery of how a seed or a cutting from a tree or plant can be placed in the ground and it can grow, nor can I explain the mystery of how the dead body of Jesus Christ could be placed in a tomb and three days later he was alive. But I believe he did rise from the dead, and that belief gives me hope and I have no problem living with the mystery of God and his Kingdom.

This past year has held a great deal of mystery for you and me and the world. I do believe that as a people of faith, we have held on because of that faith and there will be a great harvest to come from it, but it is not time for the harvest just yet. We are still in the growing season, the tree has not reached its greatest height, the stock is growing but the full grain has not ripened for the harvest, and the mustard shrub has not covered enough ground for the birds to nest under it and be protected. You and I we are still wandering around in the wilderness, but we need not fear because we know we are a part of the Kingdom of God. His is a Kingdom that has no end and keeps scattering the seeds and brings in the new harvest at the right time. Yes, how all this works might be a mystery, but it is a mystery full of hope just as there is hope in more than 930,000 seeds for crops sitting in a seed repository in Norway if the need ever arises. Yes, God's Kingdom might hold mysteries we may never uncover, and as Paul wrote, ***“for we walk in faith...so if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new!”*** It is in the words of the prophets and the parables of Jesus that lead us to new life in faith and a great harvest of hope. Amen.

Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read "How Great Thou Art"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/ylwTtV8s4Ao>

856

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and music © 1953, ren. 1981 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc.

O STORE GUD

11 10 11 10 and refrain

The Apostles' + Creed +

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Gertie Schreffler, Jeanette Chaffee, Andrew Hermanson, Nick Ivanovic, Baby William, Allan Johnson, Don Weiss, Zoia Foster, Donna Cormier, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, Tammy Olive & Family at death of husband Greg Olive, Family of Paige Mosely, all those who serve in the military, for those who have been isolated still living in fear of the Covid virus,

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place, the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Life giving God, you bring joy of life, be with Deb Meitin-Watson, Rachel Pittman-Myers, Dana Sargent and Bruce Swanson as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords Prayer (*Sung*)

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.
Amen.



Sending Hymn

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

<https://youtu.be/ylwTtV8s4Ao>

547 **Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written in a clear, sans-serif font below the notes. The first line of the score has a '1' and '2' indicating two different versions of the first line of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Ezekiel 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

Sunday after Pentecost Job 38:1-11, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and sundaysandseasons.com, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.

Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw

IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Kruer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit
Gertie Schreffler- Room 323

Appalachian Trail

Nick Ivanovic

At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Orv Lind / Lucy Creel / Blake Carter / Allan Johnson / Jeanette Chaffee

Tammy Olive & Family at death of husband Greg Olive
Family of Paige Mosely



Luke Ellison, Army National Guard, Syria (nephew of Mark & Susan Foutz)
Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)

Components of an Effective Prayer

"A"	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
"C"	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
"T"	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
"S"	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*

