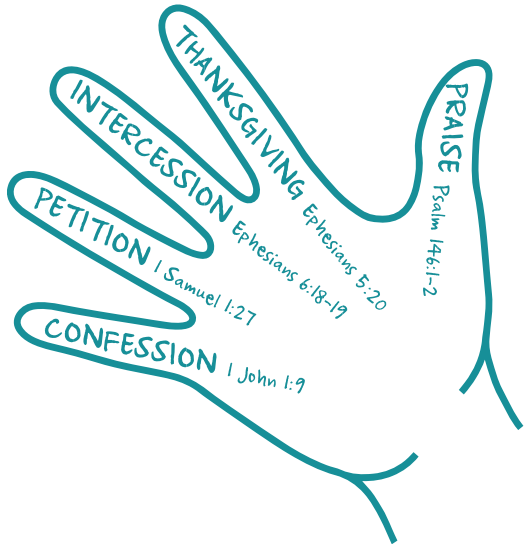


Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Lent offers focused opportunity for prayer. During Lent, we will explore different ways to pray. The Youth Sunday School class has been using the five-finger model of prayer or **Prayer Hand** to write the prayer of confession for worship each month. The Prayer Hand is an easy way to remember the five essential aspects of prayer that Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer: confession, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise. Each finger provides a focus for a particular aspect of prayer.



1. Praise (thumb): Begin with praise for God. Use words that convey your relationship with God, such as Loving Father, Gracious Lord, Guiding Shepherd.
2. Thanksgiving (first finger): Thank God for the ways God is present and active in our lives.
3. Intercession (second finger): Pray for the needs of others.
4. Petition (ring finger): Share particular concerns in your own life.
5. Confession (pinky): Ask for forgiveness for things you have done or said that you know are against God's will and commit to changing those things.

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Prayer Wall

We have created a prayer wall for our twenty-four hours of prayer on Wednesday, April 5 through Thursday, April 6. Stop by and add your thanksgivings and prayer concerns. You will find the prayer wall next to the pastor's office. Help us fill the twenty-four hours with prayer by signing up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45ADA82DA3FDC34-24hour>. Resources will be provided to support your praying. It is fine to sign up for an hour and pray for a portion of that time.

Devotions

Please use our devotion as part of your Lenten spiritual practice this year. Our devotion is *Inward Work for Outward Living* by Terri McDowell Ott of the Presbyterian Outlook. Reverend Ott invites us to enter the season of Lent with intentional prayer. This week's devotions focus on "examining our burdens to live with blessing." The biblical text and reflection prompt us to consider our burdens. The prayer for each day asks "Free me from this burden, O God, so I can live with your blessing."

Prayer for the fifth week in Lent

Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Worship, PCUSA

Scripture texts for this Sunday: Enrich your worship participation by reflecting on the texts before Sunday.

Children's Time: Luke 19:5

"When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

Worship Service: Psalm 31:9-16 and Matthew 26:36-46

Zoom link for Sunday worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87540187211?pwd=bCt1ZFRXL2VHZ2pncm1kSkJxYk4zUT09>

Gentle blessings, Pastor Cindy