

January 10, 2021
Constantly Pray with Joy!
Philippians 1:1-11



**PHILIPPIANS AS A
PANDEMIC PLAYBOOK**

— *We Gather In Joy* —

“Hear Our Praises” by Reuben Morgan

*From the mountain to the valley, hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations, hear our singing fill the air.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring out our love.

Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

Blessed is God, who reveals to us who we are and who we could be.

Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every single person.

Blessed is God, who gives us compassion to share. Amen.

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

SINGING OUR FAITH TOGETHER “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Text by Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

— *We Recognize our Need to Grow Closer to God* —

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Loving God, we look for you in all the wrong places, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. Forgive us, transform us, and challenge us to recognize those we have ignored. Fill us with grace, so that we proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, and the peace the world seeks. Amen.

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

“Gratitude is our ability to see the grace of God, morning by morning, no matter what else greets us in the course of the day.”

—Craig Barnes

“The most important prayer in the world is just two words long: ‘Thank you.’”

—Meister Eckhart

RECEIVING GRACE

In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. We are God's children, called to be different, called to act differently, called to live as new people.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

— We Hear the Word —

TIME OF DISCOVERY

MESSAGE Constantly Pray with Joy!
Philippians 1:1-11

—Dr. Craig Wansink

MUSICAL MEDITATION “He Who Began a Good Work in You” by Jon Mohr

— We Respond in Joy —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

SINGING OUR FAITH TOGETHER “I Come with Joy” Text by Brian Wren (1970)

BENEDICTION (from Philippians 1:9-11)

May God, who has begun a good work within you, continue that work until the day when Christ Jesus returns. May your love overflow more and more; may you continue to grow in knowledge and understanding, so that you can clearly discern what really matters, and so that you may stand pure and blameless before God on the day of Christ’s return.
Go in peace. **Amen.**

“If we are habitually grumbling and complaining, we should beware; the path we are on leads away from Christ.”

—Francis
Frangipane

“Blessings hemmed with praise will not unravel.”
—Author
unknown