

Trinity United Methodist Church

3430 Harrison Avenue / Beaumont, Texas 77706
409.892.8121

Prayer Ministries of TUMC offers this monthly brochure to our congregation and a circle of interested others as a compact source of daily meditations. We hope the language and the images—the articulations both ancient and modern—will bless you, awaken you, stir your imagination, open you to Sacred Mystery, help you commit to the kind of wholeness that Jesus taught and modeled, and equip you for the daily living of our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

February 2018

I Have Work to Do

Thursday, February 1

I go down to the shore in the morning
and depending on the hour the waves
are rolling in or moving out,
and I say, oh, I am miserable,
what shall—
what should I do? And the sea says
in its lovely voice:
“Excuse me, I have work to do.”

Mary Oliver

Friday, February 2

Liturgy: a fixed set of ceremonies, words, etc.,
that are used during public worship.

Saturday, February 3

Liturgy: a Latin word, in two parts:
Laity, meaning ‘the people,’ and
ergon, meaning ‘work.’
The work of the people!

Sunday, February 4

When we church people speak of liturgy
we're speaking of work.
The work of the people.

So in the morning
when I go up to the house of the Lord
I find the seasons of the church year
are rolling in or moving out:
Words to hear and say and sing and pray,
words that shift my attention from me
to my sisters and brothers,
to the Ground of our being,
to the Will of God.
Excuse me, I have work to do!

a church lady's response to Mary Oliver

Monday, February 5

For the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:6

Tuesday, February 6

The tiniest detail in which I obey has all the
omnipotent power of the grace of God behind it.
Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Wednesday, February 7

It's the little things that charm the heart of God.
St. Therese of Lisieux

Thursday, February 8

My Father is working until now,
and I myself am working.
Jesus, as recorded in John 5:17

Friday, February 9

We must work the works of Him who sent me,
as long as it is day.
Jesus, as recorded in John 9:4

Saturday, February 10

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in you,
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
Paul's letter to the Philippians, 2:12b-13

Sunday, February 11

Worship the Lord with reverence,
and rejoice with trembling.

Psalm 2:11

Monday, February 12

In absence of clearly defined goals, we become
strangely loyal to performing daily acts of trivia.
Unknown

Tuesday, February 13

If the Lord is to be Lord,
worship must have priority in our lives.
The first commandment of Jesus is
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).
The divine priority is worship first, service
second. Our lives are to be punctuated with
praise, thanksgiving, and adoration.
Service flows out of worship. Service as a
substitute for worship is idolatry.
Activity may become the enemy of adoration.
Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline,*
“The Discipline of Worship”

-End of the season of After the Epiphany

-Beginning of the season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 14

May each of us find the way best suited to us
to go deep in prayer. In our daily time
of silence before God, may He fill us
with his presence and his purpose.
May he free us from the tyranny of trivia.
Unknown

Thursday, February 15

Our task is to open ourselves
to the movement of the Spirit within.
Elizabeth-Anne Stewart

Friday, February 16

To worship is to quicken the conscience
by the holiness of God,
to feed the mind
with the truth of God,
to purge the imagination
by the beauty of God,
to open the heart to the love of God,
to devote the will to the purpose of God.

William Temple

Saturday, February 17

One reason worship should be considered a
spiritual Discipline is because it is an ordered
way of acting and living that sets us before God
so [God] can transform us.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*,
"The Discipline of Worship"

Sunday, February 18

Know God.
Be transformed.
Love.

TUMC of Beaumont, mission statement

Monday, February 19

Even under highly dangerous circumstances
the early community was urged not to forsake
the assembling of themselves together
(Hebrews 10:25).

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*,
"The Discipline of Worship"

Tuesday, February 20

This Hymnal provides what the congregation
needs for Sunday and other times of worship
(including the sacraments): the rites of
marriage and burial, and morning and evening
prayer and praise. Additional worship materials
are topically placed among the hymns;
other prayers, litanies, and creeds follow the
occasional services.

preface to *The United Methodist Hymnal*:
Book of United Methodist Worship

Wednesday, February 21

No less than forty-one psalms command us
to "sing unto the Lord."
If singing and praising can occur in a
concentrated manner it serves to focus us.
We become centered. Our fragmented minds
and spirits flow into a unified whole.
We become poised toward God.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*,
"The Discipline of Worship"

Thursday, February 22

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name;
worship the Lord in holy array.

Psalm 29:2

Friday, February 23

Instruct them to do good,
to be rich in good works,
to be generous and ready to share,
storing up for themselves the treasure
of a good foundation for the future,
so that they may take hold
of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Saturday, February 24

I have come that they may have life,
and have it in all its fullness.

Jesus, as recorded in John 10:10

Sunday, February 25

If worship does not change us,
it has not been worship.
To stand before the Holy One of eternity
is to change.
Resentments cannot be held with the same
tenacity when we enter his gracious light ...
In worship an increased power steals its way
into the heart-sanctuary,
an increased compassion grows in the soul.
To worship is to change.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*,
"The Discipline of Worship"

Monday, February 26

If worship does not propel us into greater
obedience, it has not been worship.
Just as worship begins in holy expectancy
it ends in holy obedience.
Holy obedience
saves worship from becoming an opiate,
an escape from the pressing needs
of modern life. Worship enables us to hear the
call of service clearly so that we respond,
"Here I am! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8)

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*,
"The Discipline of Worship"

Tuesday, February 27

A mission statement,
offered by a friend of TUMC Prayer Ministries:

To be transformed through Grace and the
proven Disciplines in a way that we come to:

Recognize and remove logs from our eyes
Be able to love God and love and relate to all of
nature and to our fellow human beings
To be as wise as serpents
and harmless as doves
Restore our conscience
to its proper place in our lives

So that the highest Will be done on earth
and in our individual lives.

Wednesday, February 28

And He was astonished
that there was no one to intercede.
(Isaiah 59:16)
"But there is no one interceding properly"—
then be that one yourself,
be the one who worships God
and who lives in holy relationship to Him.
Get into the real work of intercession,
and remember it is a work,
a work that taxes every power.

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*