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Prayer Ministries of TUMC
offers this monthly brochure
to provide members of TUMC
and a circle of interested others
a compact source of meditations
as an aid to their ongoing spiritual development,
in a way that provides the reader with
grace-full, image-evoking language that fosters
appreciation for our faith tradition,
so that we may be strengthened
to carry out our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

June 2017

There Lives a God

**Suggestion: Read these meditations aloud,
in your small groups,
or in your private prayer time.
"O taste and see that the Lord is good!"**

Thursday, June 1

There lives a God: *Our sages beheld him
when they looked up to the heavens.*

There lives a God: *Our poets saw him
when they looked into the soul.*

Our people found him

in their liberation from bondage.

In the wilderness of Sinai they met him.

Through long years of wandering
they put their trust in him. *Through bitter times
of oppression they kept faith with him.*

There lives a God: *In love he summoned us to
bear witness to him; in love he has preserved
us to this day; and in love we declare:*

You are the redeemer of Israel and all the
oppressed. Blessed is the Eternal One,
the God of Israel, the Source of freedom.

Gates of Prayer

Friday, June 2

We sanctify your name on earth, even as all
things, to the ends of time and space, proclaim
your holiness; and in the words of the prophet
we say: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts;
the fullness of the whole earth is his glory!

Gates of Prayer

Saturday, June 3

O fill our minds with knowledge and our hearts
with wisdom; *Praised be the Mind that unifies
all creation.* Remind us of the best that is in us:
*Praised be the Will that gives us power to
choose our way.* Help us to feel the anguish of
the afflicted and oppressed; *Praised be the
Heart that inspires in us a vision of justice and
love.* Make us bring knowledge and skill to help
the infirm; *Praised be the Power that brings
healing to the sick.* Teach us to stand in awe
before the mystery of being. *Praised be the
One who is present in the miracle of prayer.*

Gates of Prayer

Sunday, June 4

May the church at prayer recall
that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all
is the God whom we proclaim.

UM Hymnal #113 "Source and Sovereign,
Rock and Cloud", Thomas Troeger

Monday, June 5

For the love of God is broader than the
measure of our mind; and the heart of the
Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

UM Hymnal #121, "There's a Wideness
in God's Mercy," Frederick W. Faber

Tuesday, June 6

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna! Great living God!

UM The Faith We Sing #2047,
"Bring Many Names," Brian Wren

Wednesday, June 7

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the
Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see
that in every way you are very religious. For as
I walked around and looked carefully at your
objects of worship, I even found an altar with
this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.
Now what you worship as unknown
I am going to proclaim to you."

Acts 17:22-23

Thursday, June 8

God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

UM The Faith We Sing #2049, traditional Mexican,
translated by C. Michael Hawn

Friday, June 9

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day
you were baptized, to see your life unfold."

Saturday, June 10

"When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

UM The Faith We Sing #2051, John Ylvisaker

Sunday, June 11

You have put a joy in my heart
greater than all the world's riches.
I lie down trusting the darkness,
for I know that even now you are here.

From Stephen Mitchell's paraphrase of Psalm 4

Monday, June 12

It seems as though you neither see God
by the light of understanding nor feel God
in the sweetness of love and affection.
But learn to live with this darkness,
crying out always to him whom you love.

The Cloud of Unknowing

Tuesday, June 13

Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow
of your wings. My soul clings to you.

Psalm 63:7-8

Wednesday, June 14

By the word of the Lord
were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33

Thursday, June 15

God of many names, gathered into One,
in your glory come and meet us, moving,
endlessly becoming; God of hovering wings,
womb and birth of time, joyfully we sing your
praises, breath of life in every people.

UM Hymnal #105, Brian Wren

Friday, June 16

Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

UM Hymnal #109, Jeffery Rowthorn

Saturday, June 17

I am the Lord, I have called you in
righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand
and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a
covenant to the people, as a light to the
nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out
prisoners from the dungeon, and those
who dwell in darkness from the prison.
I am the Lord, that is my name.

Isaiah 42:6-8

Sunday, June 18

God weeps at love withheld, at strength
misused, at children's innocence abused, and
till we change the way we love, God weeps.

UM The Faith We Sing #2048,
Shirley Erena Murray

Monday, June 19

Do you not know that you are the temple of
God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

from 1 Corinthians 3

Tuesday, June 20

We cannot kindle when we will
the fire that in the heart resides
the Spirit bloweth and is still,
in mystery our soul abides.

Matthew Arnold

Wednesday, June 21

Jesus' idea of church is not about giving people
answers but, in fact, leading them into liminal
and dark space where they will long and yearn
for God, for wisdom and for their own souls.
This is itself—and always has been—
the only answer.

Richard Rohr

Thursday, June 22

O God, the keenest eye sees only a minute
portion of your greatness. Even the mind of
genius perceives but little of your glory.
Poets labor to express your splendor,
sages stammer in their effort to describe you,
but in vain.

All our learning is but a grain of sand
on the shores of an infinite sea of knowledge.
We cannot comprehend or name you.

The mystery of your works
is a riddle we cannot solve.

We can only stand in awe of the Infinite.
And yet we reach out,
hoping to grow toward your light!

Gates of Prayer

Friday, June 23

I have no title for your glorious throne,
and for your presence not a golden word—
only that wanting you, by that alone
I do invoke you, knowing I am heard.

Gates of Prayer

Saturday, June 24

The Most High dwells far off, the Mighty One
abides in darkness. *Yet I can say: The Eternal
is my safe retreat, my God in whom I trust.*

from Psalm 91

Sunday, June 25

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns
enthroned above; I shall, on eagle wings
upborne, to heaven ascend. I shall behold
God's face; I shall God's power adore, and sing
the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

UM Hymnal #116, Daniel Ben Judah, ca. 1400

Monday, June 26

When you said, "Seek my face," my heart said
to you, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."

Psalm 27:8

Tuesday, June 27

You will seek me and find me
when you search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Wednesday, June 28

"Behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

Thursday, June 29

The humble have seen it and are glad;
you who seek God, let your heart revive.

Psalm 69:32

Friday, June 30

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see,
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

UM Hymnal #463, "Lord, Speak to Me,"
Frances R. Havergal