

pray . fast . give . 

Living Lent | Day 2

Prayer

“Look at me, listen to me. Pay attention to this prayer of your servant that I’m praying day and night in intercession for your servants....”

Nehemiah 1: 5b-6 MSG

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Indeed, 2020 was a year of widespread human suffering. The pandemic seems to drag on & on, leaving a path of fear & loss – loss of both lives & livelihoods. Political events have rendered this great country fractured & divided. Never has there been a greater need for the grace & comfort of the God of the Universe.

In times like this, we tend to focus on ourselves, our own isolation & fear. We mourn that which we have lost, and we wonder when our own lives will feel comfortable & normal again. We humans do love our creature comforts, don’t we? It’s human nature in such situations to turn inwardly and focus on our own pain & loneliness. In such a state of mind, God seems far away – and prayer can feel like an exercise in futility.

However, we serve a loving, sovereign God. He is still on the throne, and His divine plan continues to unfold. And He always hears the prayers of His children.

As we cry out to God in prayer, revealing what troubles us, our hearts are changed. Rather than being concerned with our own dissatisfaction & discomfort, our spirits are refreshed and we begin to feel gratitude for all the ways we have been blessed. Petty resentments fall away as we offer prayers

for others to be blessed & comforted – especially those folks we find hardest to pray for. Ask God to reveal where and for whom prayers are needed, and be prepared to sidestep any hesitation to obey His promptings.

As we look toward Easter, you are encouraged to pray that the spirit of generosity would bless you and allow others to see Christ in you. During these 40 days, pray that He would open your heart and use your uniqueness to bless others in rich ways.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Max and Susan Manack, Statesboro, Georgia, are dedicated members of the First United Methodist Church of Statesboro, Georgia, and have been involved in philanthropy and service to others throughout their lives, having been taught the same by both sets of parents, leaders in the communities of Statesboro and Sylvania. Both Georgia Southern University graduates, they also serve others in their respective careers: for Max, it is financial planning and for Susan, it is as a School Counselor in an elementary school in Bulloch County. Avid readers of the Bible and all other genres of books, Max and Susan have likewise furthered the cause of community involvement and leadership in discipleship with their two grown children who are married and all of whom are involved directly and indirectly in ministry. Being introduced to **Morningstar**, both Max and Susan have embraced the calling to dedicate their attention as well to the Vision of **Morningstar**.

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