

Live the Dance, Dance the Faith

Prayer Vigil – Sept. 30, 2017 – 9am to 12 noon

Thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the prayer vigil for the fall funding campaign. Following is some material you may find helpful as you take time to pray and meditate during this special time.

OPENING

Stewardship Prayer

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am and all that I have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help me to do your will. I am listening, Lord God.

Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that I may hear you clearly. I offer to you this day all the facets of my life, whether it be at home, at work, or at school—to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions. I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for you and my neighbor. Help me to reach out to others as you my god have reached out to me. Amen.

For meditation

“Live the Dance / Dance the Faith”

Faith is a dance. We see this so clearly in the stories of the Bible. It is a dance where God takes the lead, and we are invited to *follow*. God’s lead is generous, setting the rhythm and guiding the movement of the dance purposefully to create something of incredible beauty that others will be drawn to watch and participate. God is a patient dance partner, gently guiding us and forgiving of our missteps. Sometimes we try to steal the lead from God, we wrest control of the dance by “hijacking” the lead, choosing instead to make our own way. Even then God’s grace refuses to let go or give up on us. **Grace invites us to join God in the dance of faith.**

Songs to read or to listen to:

And the Father Will Dance

Composer Carey Landry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYQLLpWR9Q0>

REFRAIN

And the Father will dance as on a day of joy.
He will exult over you and renew you by His love.
And the Father will dance as on a day of joy.
He will exult over you and renew you by His love.

1... Shout for joy, all you His people.
Sing aloud and exult with
All your hearts, for Yahweh your God is in your midst.

2... You have no more evil to fear.
You have no more evil to fear.
Do not let your hands fall limp
for Yahweh your God is in your midst.

3... And when the time comes, I will rescue the lame,
and when the time comes I will gather the strays,
And when the time comes, I will be your guide.
I will gather you in and give you renown among all
peoples.

And the Father Will Dance

Composer Mark Hayes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qOJivN9leM>

Words Zephaniah 3:14,17, Psalm 34:2,4

And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!
And He will joy over you in song;
And He will joy over you in song.

My soul will make its boast in God,
For He has answered all my cries,
His faithfulness in me
is as sure as the dawn
of a new day.

Awake my soul!
Awake, my soul, and sing!
Let my spirit rejoice,
Let my spirit rejoice,
Let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!
Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise
as on a festival day.
Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song!

And He will joy over you in song;
And He will joy over you in song.
And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!

God rejoices over you,
God rejoices over you,
God rejoices over you in song!

A Prayer for Vision

Author Unknown

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.

Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. God loves you tenderly. What he gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save the less you will be able to give. The less you have, the more you will know how to share. Let us ask God, when it comes to ask God for something, to help us to be generous. Mother Teresa—*In My Own Words*

A poem to inspire your prayers

The Overflowing Basket, by Kate McIlhagga, in *Faces of Faith*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We will not offer to God

Offerings that cost us nothing.

Spirit of God,

Brooding over the waters

Of our chaos,

Inspire us to generous living.

Wind of God,

Dancing over the desert

Of our reluctance,

Lead us to the oasis

Of celebration

Breath of God,

Inspiring communication

Among strangers,

Make us channels

Of your peace.

That we may give

In deep thankfulness,

Placing the overflowing basket

Of our gifts

On the table

Of rejoicing.

A Closing Prayer

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is “the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.” We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus’ name. Amen.