



### **A Few Suggested Prayer Places**

Luke 24:13-43	Jesus Walks with Us
Luke 22:15-32	A Meal for Life Friends
Matt.23:1-14,23	Faith Integrity
Psalms 42	A Psalm of Yearning
John 17:13-26	Jesus Prays for Us
Mark 15	Trial, Cross, Tomb

### **Lactantius' Third Century Counsel to Constantine**

.... One God who gave being and life to all, who wished us all to be equal, and to be alike in our moral dignity as we are in our moral inadequacies. Human beings had the same terms of life, and an equal longing for eternal fellowship. No one was excluded from the benefits of heaven, or from a place in the daylight. It was the one power that nurtured the earth for the benefit of all, and sustained us, not as slave or master, but as free and worthy. Within the divine providence, no one was exempt from the obligations of the moral life or from its privileges.

(as quoted in Disciples for All nations.  
Lamen Sanneh. pp 212-213)

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## **Prayers for the Deck & Dock 2017**

### **Walking and Breaking Bread with Jesus**

On a recent retreat we listened to the story of Jesus walking up on two depressed and discouraged friends on the Sunday of his resurrection. He listens to them and teaches them to expand their view of the world that had been too narrowly shaped by their faith tradition. "But they were kept from recognising him".

Significantly, their eyes were opened when he accepted their offer of hospitality and blessed and broke the bread around the table. Our summer moments are ripe opportunities for combining deep thought on life while also creating moments of hospitality where we invite Jesus to reveal himself to us.

Take your coffee and sit on the deck in the sun's rays and let your whole body relax and respond to the light and warmth of the love of God.

Go for a slow walk with a gospel story in your mind and imagine Jesus walking with you. Invite him to sit with you and converse with him as you would with a good friend sitting in a deck chair.

This is the time to invite God to expand our vision for the world and how we see it. Let your imagination and creativity loose as you put yourself on display to God in scripture and creation.

Just as Jesus walked up on two friends who had fears and doubts, today he initiates contact with us. Let's not let our busy-ness, preoccupations and preconceptions prevent us from seeing him.

### **A Morning Prayer**

O Lord, who has mercy on all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake. (Ambrose: c.339-97)

### **A Prayer Of Focus on God**

We come in these moments to God,  
In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus,  
And who walks with us the road of our world's suffering.

We come with our faith and with our doubts.

We come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come.

And God has promised never to turn us away.

### **A Benedictine Blessing**

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator,  
Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Saviour,  
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide,  
be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore. Amen