

**THOUGHTS FOR
PRAYER AND REFLECTION
OCTOBER 2017**

**May the strength of God
guide me this day,
and may God's power preserve me.**

**May the wisdom of God instruct me,
and the eye of God watch over me.**

**May the ear of God hear me,
and the word of God
give sweetness to my speech.**

**May the hand of God defend me,
and may I follow the way of God.**



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| 1 st | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. <i>Philippians 2:5-8</i> |
| 2 nd | As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison. <i>Nelson Mandela</i> |
| 3 rd | He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. <i>Colossians 1:15-16</i> |
| 4 th | Francis of Assisi, friar and preacher (d.1226): The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today.. <i>Francis of Assisi</i> |
| 5 th | Let the words of my mouth and the medication of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. <i>Psalms 19:14</i> |
| 6 th | William Tyndale, biblical scholar (d.1536): See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <i>Colossians 2:8-10</i> |
| 7 th | We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers. <i>Rabbi Abraham Heschel quoted in SQ: Connecting with Our Spiritual Intelligence by Danah Zohar & Dr Ian Marshall</i> |
| 8 th | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. <i>Psalms 19:7-10</i> |
| 9 th | Every human activity can be put at the service of the divine and of love. We should all exercise our gift to build community. <i>Jean Vanier: Community And Growth</i> |
| 10 th | As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <i>Colossians 3:12-14</i> |
| 11 th | There are four things that we ought to do with the Word of God - admit it as the Word of God, commit it to our hearts and minds, submit to it, and transmit it to the world. <i>William Wilberforce</i> |
| 12 th | Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, England (d.1845): A life lived without forgiveness is a prison. <i>William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)</i> |
| 13 th | I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. <i>Psalms 9:1-2</i> |
| 14 th | Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence. <i>Henri Frederic Amiel</i> |
| 15 th | Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: for his steadfast love endures forever. <i>Psalms 106:1</i> |
| 16 th | Hugh Lattimer and Nicholas Ridley, bishops and martyrs (d.1555): Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. <i>Psalms 98:4-5</i> |
| 17 th | Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr (d.c.115): Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." <i>1 Peter 1: 13-16</i> |

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| 18 th | Luke, Evangelist and Martyr: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <i>Isaiah 55:6-7</i> |
| 19 th | Henry Martyn, missionary and Bible translator in India and Persia (d.1812): The power of gentleness is irresistible. <i>Henry Martyn</i> |
| 20 th | Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! <i>Psalms 117</i> |
| 21 st | Nothing great is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me that you desire a fig. I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen. <i>Epictetus (c.AD 55-c.AD 135)</i> |
| 22 ND | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples. <i>Psalms 96:1-2</i> |
| 23 rd | James of Jerusalem, brother of our Lord, martyr (d.c.52): Patience is the companion of wisdom. <i>Saint Augustine</i> |
| 24 th | United Nations, inaugurated 1945: We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is ours. <i>Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General, United Nations, (1905-1961)</i> |
| 25 th | Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. <i>1 Peter 4:1-2</i> |
| 26 th | Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <i>1 Peter 4:8-10</i> |
| 27 th | Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <i>1 Peter 4:12-13</i> |
| 28 th | Simon and Jude, Apostles and Martyrs: Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. <i>Melody Beattie</i> |
| 29 th | Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither, in all that they do, they prosper. <i>Psalms 1:1-3</i> |
| 30 th | His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. <i>2 Peter 1:3-7</i> |
| 31 st | Martin Luther (d.1546) and other Continental Reformers: You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say. <i>Martin Luther</i> |



PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday** Lord, please keep me from the foolishness of sin. I ask for wisdom and discernment to make wise choices in my life. When I am tempted, give me strength to flee it. When I am uncertain, help me to know the right course of action. When I need good ideas, enlighten my mind with creativity and intelligence. May I walk in your wisdom and learn your ways.
- Monday** Grant to us all the humility and trust that will allow you to do great things in us and through us. *Amen*
- Tuesday** I pray for holy simplicity, so I may enjoy the simple things – time with family and friends, the beauty of nature, the joy of realising God’s love for humankind.
- Wednesday** O God, help me to hear the good news of your gospel and to be the gospel to those I meet. *Amen*
- Thursday** Give us today the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.
- Friday** Loving God, use the sharp point of a question mark to probe for my moral responsibility for those who are hungry and homeless, so to do my share to relieve their need. *Edward Hays: A Book of Wonders*
- Saturday** Loving God, lead me to make choices that bring you glory and allow me to experience the life you intended for me.

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection
for our *city on a hill...* and beyond.

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**Our church is open every day,
providing a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.**

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