

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prayer Meeting | April 25, 2024 (7:00pm)

*all initial comments per section are from B. Hostetler

I AM the Bread of Life

Scripture Reading: John 6:22-35 (James Lines)

*In the ancient world, bread was a common and critical feature of people's daily diets. It was a key to survival and often, literally, the difference between life and death. Pray to Jesus as the "Bread of life," the One who gave you life and who sustains and nourishes you.

*Lament how we as a church and as individuals have not sought Jesus as the all-sufficient, all-satisfying Bread.

*Both in connecting to our past and our call to repentance, pray that we would cling to Jesus as our daily Bread, our True Food given for the life of the world.

I AM the Light of the World

Scripture Reading: John 8:12 (Ellyn Huff)

*Just as bread held daily importance to people in Jesus' time, so did light. Whether it was the light of a torch, oil lamp, or sunrise, light brought safety, clarity, and health. Turn to Jesus as "the Light of the World"—*your* Light—to seek those blessings.

*Ask forgiveness for how we have not sought Jesus as our supreme Light, how we have sought the guidance, protection, and warmth of lesser lights.

*Pray that we would have Gospel-driven and Christ-centered ministries, that each ministry would be warm and welcoming, guided by the light of Jesus.

I AM the Door of the Sheep

Scripture Reading: John 10:7-9 (David Hunter)

*When Jesus said this, He evoked a familiar rural scene: a sheep pen enclosed by a gate or the reclining body of the shepherd himself. The "door" kept the flock safe from attacks and accidents. Your prayers to Jesus as "the Door of the Sheep" can appeal to His care and keeping, enabling you to rest secure in the knowledge that He guards you.

*Lament how we have denied Christ as our Lord Protector, how we have installed false "doors" instead - our own ingenuity, manmade laws, and methods.

*In our own personal Gospel formation in the disciplines of grace, pray that we would be a people who rest fully in the Christ-Door as our Protector and Security.

I AM the Good Shepherd

Scripture Reading: John 10:11-15 (LeeAnn Philipps)

*Jesus expanded on this theme by enlarging the analogy from the shepherd who guards to the shepherd who guides. He knows His sheep, calling each one by name. He leads them "in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:3). Pray to your "Good Shepherd" who knows you, calls you by name, and guides you in the right direction, day to day and moment to moment.

*Ask forgiveness for how you have not sought Jesus' guidance, resisting His shepherd's crook, dismissing or assuming the One who sacrificed his life for the sheep in love.

*In both the ministry of prayer and the ministry of preaching, pray that we would be led by our Good Shepherd in humility.

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

Scripture Reading: John 11:25-26 (Eric Tessier)

*It was a bold thing for Jesus to claim—at a funeral—that He is “the resurrection and the life.” But He proved it by calling Lazarus out of the grave. He still proves His power today by giving new life to dead hopes, shattered dreams, and broken lives. Call on Him as “the Resurrection and the Life.” Let His resurrection power “make all things new” for you (see Revelation 21:5).

*Mourn in lowliness how death-through-sin has taken ahold of our conversations, relationships, and lives.

*Pray that we would stay on mission in a world of complex emotions and chaotic news cycles, helping guide the crippled and lost with the vision of the Gospel.

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-6 (Andrew Rawson)

*This is perhaps the most well-known “I Am” statement of Jesus. Calling on Him as “the Way, the Truth and the Life” is a wonderful way to pray, especially if you crave direction, need wisdom, or feel deflated or depleted.

*Ask forgiveness for how we have let confusion, distraction, distrust, and error cloud our judgments and poison our conversations.

*In leadership training and small group discipleship, pray that Christ would be magnified as the only Way to the Father, the Fount of all truth, and the Life of all life.

I AM the True Vine

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-5 (Kari Lines)

*Everyone in Jesus' day would have understood this revelation as vineyards proliferated (and still do) in the land of Israel. He went on to explain the meaning of the metaphor, which is the absolute necessity of constant connection with Him (“abiding”) in order to produce the kind of fruit our lives need. So, pray to your “True Vine,” asking Him to help you keep that connection alive and productive.

*Lament the idol of independence and self-satisfaction, as well as the resulting spiritual anemia that comes from not abiding in the One who gives us every grace, beauty, and nourishment.

*Pray that we would have a “great commitment to the great commission” in all things, that we would “abide” in Christ even as we seek to make Him known and worshiped among the nations.