



Wednesday Prayer

Fifth Sunday in Lent – Living fully into God’s gifts

**“. . . but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 3:13b-14**

Having experienced the transformational grace of God through his encounter with Jesus Christ, Paul counts anything that isn’t part of that grace as rubbish. All of his credentials, all of the knowledge he’s acquired, achievements, promotions, his high standing in society and memberships to every club - all of it he forfeits for the joy of knowing Jesus. It’s not only the good stuff that he lets go of though. Paul forgets what lies behind: imprisonment, flogging, ridicule, interrogation, exile, loneliness and his life before Jesus. These too he sets aside and strains ahead to the goal which is the righteousness and peace of Jesus. Paul wants to live fully into these gifts that God has so freely given to him in Jesus. He wants to know nothing else. And not only for himself. His life’s work after becoming a follower of Jesus was to share the good news of God’s gift of grace in Jesus with the world.

How easily I can get distracted by the lure of knowledge, achievements and concern over how I fit in with society. How easily I can be filled with despair over the state of the world. Paul’s striving in the direction of Christ is encouragement that there is another calling we can answer to, one that leads to life full and abundant. When we remember that God has gone ahead of us to prepare the way forward then that call rings a little louder in my ears.

Turning my eyes and my heart once again in the direction of Jesus, I am able to let the anxieties and the allures of this world fade into the background and focus my life on the path that Jesus has set out. And I am able to more boldly witness to the transformational grace I have experienced in my own life.

May we all hear the call of Christ inviting us into a life of grace and peace. May we all strive forward on the path set out by Christ that shares the good news of God’s transformational grace with all people.

Loving God, you call us forward to a life lived with you. May we set aside all else today and follow where you lead, trusting that it will bring us and all your people into your grace and peace. Amen.

View our week five Lenten prayer, and share our [Lenten Prayer Series](#) with your church and others so we may keep all children and those who care for children in our prayers.

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