

“...for we walk by faith, not by sight.” - 2 Corinthians 5:7 NRSV

Daily Prayer Guide

Over the next four weeks we invite you to join us in an intentional journey of prayer and discernment as we participate in **The Walk**. During the course of The Walk, we are challenging each other to “walk by faith and not by sight,” and one of the postures of the faithful is the posture of prayer.

Each week, there will be a daily prayer guide for you to follow. We invite you to enter into the practice of daily prayer with companionship: perhaps your family, a close friend or a small group of friends.

- Each day, begin with the Call to Prayer.
- Read the Scripture verse for the week.
- Spend a few moments meditating on the Key Word and Prayer Focus.
- Pray the Closing Prayer.
- Remember to leave room for silence and listening for the voice of God.

Helpful Hints

- There is no wrong way to pray! You may feel comfortable praying out loud with others, praying in silence or by writing your prayers in a journal.
- No amount of time is too short or too long. Take the amount of time that works and feels comfortable for you.
- The Daily Prayer Guide can be accessed at any time on the website www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk-prayer-guide.

As we join together in this journey, there are opportunities to share how God is speaking to you during your time of prayer. You may share your prayers by emailing thewalk@stjohnsbr.org or by placing them in the prayer box located in the back of the sanctuary.

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– 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV)

www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk

Daily Prayer Guide

WEEK ONE, October 4-10

Call to Prayer:

Lord, your presence fills the vast regions of time and space.

Lord, you dwell in our innermost hearts.

We come into your sanctuary led by faith, not sight.

Guide us as we strive to follow you more closely, serve you more fully.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Monday, Key Word: **FAITH**

Prayer focus: What is the source of my faith? How can my faith be made stronger? How can I work to strengthen the faith of others?

Tuesday, Key Word: **ASSURANCE**

Prayer focus: On what does my assurance rest? Who in my life has been an inspiring pattern of faith in action? Can my life influence others?

Wednesday, Key Words: **THINGS HOPED FOR**

Prayer focus: What are my hopes for St. John's? How do I want our church community to grow?

Thursday, Key Word: **CONVICTION**

Prayer focus: Conviction is such a strong work. Is my faith this strong? Where do I look for support? Am I a support for others?

Friday, Key Words: **THINGS NOT SEEN**

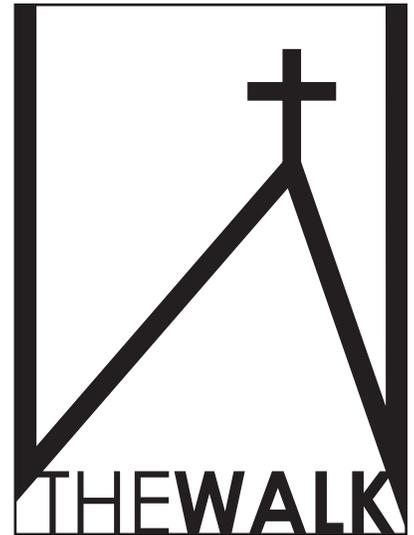
Prayer focus: What do I not see at St. John's that I wish to see here? What can I do to foster this vision?

Saturday, Key Word: **FAITH**

Prayer focus: Where have I seen faith in action this week?

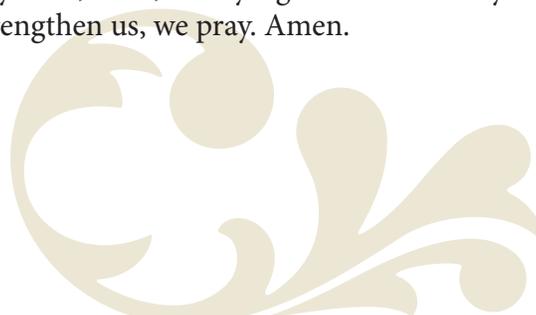
Closing Prayer:

Dear God, it's not easy to go out on a new path, to take risks, to put our convictions on the line. St. John's is about to begin a bold new venture of increased service and love in our community. We cannot see now where this new venture will lead us. But we walk by faith, Lord, not by sight. You are always at our side, Lord, our shield and support. Continue to guide and strengthen us, we pray. Amen.



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- 2 Corinthians 5:7 NRSV



Daily Prayer Guide

WEEK TWO, October 11-17

Call to Prayer:

The Roman soldier said,

Say the word, Master. Your will will be done.

And Jesus said,

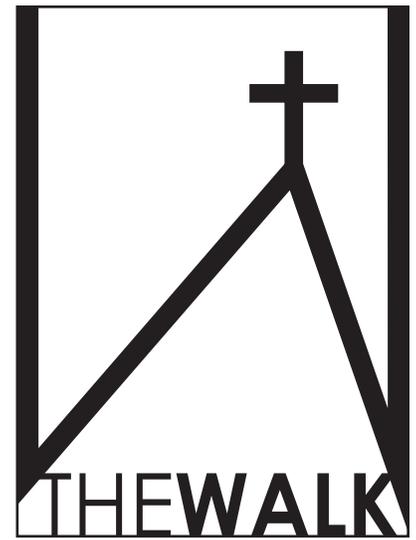
Go home. Your servant lives.

Lord, give us faith as strong as that Roman's,

For we walk by our faith, not sight.

When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

Luke 7:9



"...for we walk by faith, not by sight."

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 NRSV

Monday, Key Word **FAITH**

Prayer focus: When this week has your faith been strong like the centurion? When this week has your faith been weak as the people of Israel?

Tuesday, Key Word **HEARD**

Prayer focus: Jesus heard the call of the centurion. When this week did you hear the call of Jesus? What was your response to this call?

Wednesday, Key Word **COME**

Prayer focus: The centurion asked Jesus to come and heal. Did you ask Jesus to come into your life this week and help you with a problem, concern, or guidance?

Thursday, Key Word **AMAZED**

Prayer focus: When this week were you amazed by something that happened in God's creation? What was your response to this situation?

Friday, Key Word **SPEAK**

Prayer focus: Did you speak about your faith, or about your church and what our hope for the future is, this week to a friend or family member?

Saturday, Key Word **FAITH**

Prayer focus: What was my faith in action this week?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, sometimes the future is scary, full of uncertainty and risky. At times like this we tend to back off and question and doubt the plans laid before us. Give us the strength and faith to step out of our comfort zone and become enthusiastic about the renovation plans of our church physical plant. Although we have faith and trust in You, help us with "our unbelief." As we approach Commitment Sunday help us to listen and discern your will in terms of what You want our financial pledge to be. Guide and lead us in this journey. Amen.

Daily Prayer Guide

WEEK THREE, October 18-24

Call to Prayer:

Lord, you have sown in to our hearts your Word, your seed.

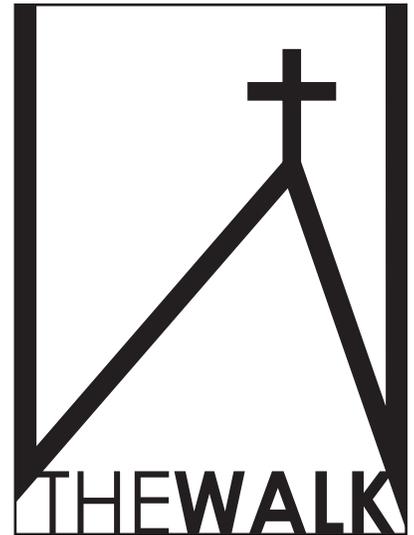
Let that seed grow in us, Lord, and flourish.

Give us the strength and the faith to nourish

Our neighbors' bodily wants and spiritual need.

"Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Luke 8:8, NRSV



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- 2 Corinthians 5:7 NRSV

Monday, Key Word: **LISTEN**

Prayer Focus: Take a few moments in silence. What does it feel like to be still and listen to God? What keeps me from listening more often?

Tuesday, Key Word: **SEEDS**

Prayer Focus: What seeds of faith has God sown in me? What seeds of faith has God sown in others through my words in actions?

Wednesday, Key Word: **ROOTS**

Prayer Focus: How has St. John's served as a place for me to develop strong roots of faith? What helps my roots grow deeper and stronger?

Thursday, Key Word: **ENDURANCE**

Prayer Focus: Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in the desire for immediate results. When has my faith been strengthened by exercising patience? What faith practices help me cultivate spiritual endurance?

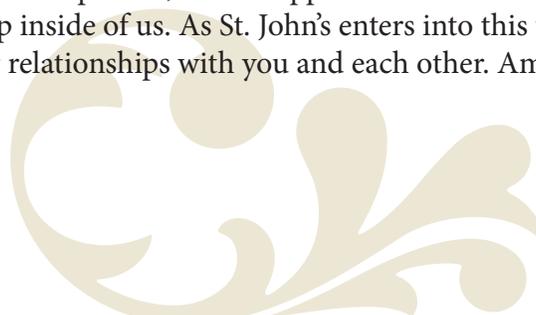
Friday, Key Word: **HUNDREDFOLD**

Prayer Focus: When has God's faithfulness exceeded my expectations? Where do I see the abundance of God's good work through the ministry of St. John's?

Saturday, Key Word: **FAITH**

Prayer Focus: Where did I practice faith in action this week?

Closing Prayer: Dear God, it is not always easy to endure. It is often difficult to slow down, listen for your voice, and accept your timetable. Help us to be patient, to take opportunities to root ourselves in your love, to let the seeds of faith plant themselves deep inside of us. As St. John's enters into this time of physical growth, help us to be fertile ground for growth in our relationships with you and each other. Amen.



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WEEK FOUR, October 25-31

Call to Prayer:

When Abraham heard God call, he rose without delay.

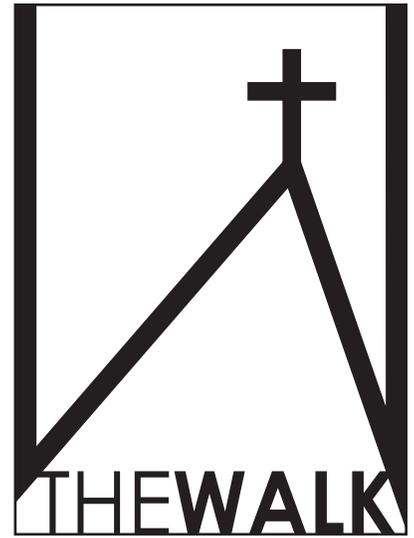
In faith he stepped out on an unknown path to a land he had not yet seen.

Lord, let our faith be equal to his

As we set out on a journey to which you call us.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell my people to get moving. As for you, lift your shepherd's rod, stretch out your hand over the sea, and split the waters in two so that they can walk into the sea on dry ground."

Exodus 14:15-16



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Monday, Key Word: **MOVING**

Prayer focus: Have you ever suffered the "paralysis of analysis" – that everything must be cleared up and figured out before decisive action? What is God asking us to trust and not over-analyze? What keeps us from stepping forward in faith?

Tuesday, Key Word: **STRETCH**

Prayer focus: When was the last time you stretched past your comfort zone? When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, do you think he expected anything to happen? What miracle awaits us when we stretch toward God's direction and move beyond our own comfort?

Wednesday, Key Word: **SEA**

Prayer focus: Water is the substance of life – amniotic fluid to a glass of H₂O – giving us life from womb till tomb. Yet water also threatens us; floods, tidal waves, and the deluge of death are all potential threats water holds. If the sea is something God opens for God's people to pass through safely, what openings is God offering us? In what ways is God taking the major obstacles in our lives and breaking them open for deeper trust in him?

Thursday, Key Word: **GO**

Prayer focus: "Go into the sea..." God is asking me to do what?! Have you ever felt like uttering that question? Imagine the challenge of hearing this divine instruction: go into the sea... What are you going to do with me, O Lord, when I get into the sea? Why not take the challenge away? Why command me to go into the very challenge I want to avoid?

Friday, Key Words: **DRY GROUND**

Prayer focus: Have you ever faced a problem and upon reflection seen the ways God has helped you through it? Think back for a moment – be still and remember. Through what dangerous waters have God's power and peace held us? Give thanks to the Lord for this now.

Saturday – Key Word: **TRUST**

Prayer focus: In what decision I am facing will I trust more deeply in God's care and guidance?

Closing Prayer: Gracious and Almighty God, you ask us to move forward – through challenges and in the face of danger. Urge us by your Holy Spirit to trust not in our own abilities but in your eternal love for us. We trust again, O Lord, that you want what is best for us. Remind us our steps of faith are not guaranteed to be easy, but to lead us to your great glory. In your everlasting name we pray, amen.