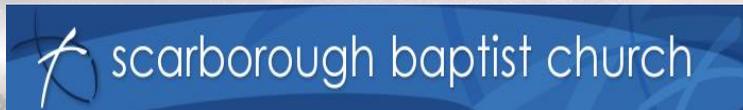


July Prayer Month: a journey through the resurrection and ascension



Prayer Weeks #14-17

An update on the prayer needs of the church

Week #14 5th – 11th July 2020 – The key to understanding the image of newness in the Bible is an awareness that God is the God of new beginnings, who is continuously “doing a new thing” (Isaiah 43:19; see also Revelation 21:5). Newness is rooted in the very nature of God. At the start of the week stop to reflect that it is a new day/week which has promises of new beginnings. May God bring healing in your life through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the new creation and giving of his Spirit.

Week #15 12th – 18th July 2020 – Read through Genesis chapters 1&2. Notice the aura of newness everywhere. Nowhere else in the Bible do we get a sense that things are being done for the first time. “In the beginning”, sets the tone. Have you thought about doing something for the first time? Learning a new language, hobby, book, friendship. Maybe sharing your faith with someone you have been praying for? New beginnings are scary, exciting, and a way towards healing.

Week #16 19th – 25th July 2020 – We can see newness around us in ordinary things. Rain, for instance, does not return to its source but produces something new (Isaiah 55:10). God’s mercies are new every morning. ‘The LORD can always be trusted to show mercy each morning. Deep in my heart I say, “The LORD is all I need; I can depend on him!” (Lamentations 3:23, 24). If it rains this week, reflect on the newness of God. Can you remember a time(s) when you received God’s mercy? Although we are not complete, still broken and tempted by sin. There is a place we can always go to that deeply speaks about God’s love and mercy – the coming of Jesus, the cross, the resurrection, the giving of His Spirit. **Prayer:** “Lord, have mercy”.

Week #17 26th – 31st July 2020 – The picture of newness in the Bible is used most often in connection with our salvation. The prophet Ezekiel anticipates a time when God will put a new eagerness to be faithful to Him in us (11:19). Willing to turn away from our selfish ways and desires back to God (18:31). By giving us His Spirit, God gives us a new heart and a desire to be faithful (36:26, 27). ‘Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new’ (2 Corinthians 5:17). This work of God is nothing less than a new creation. A hopeful beginning is provided.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for protection and wisdom for nations that have been hit hard by the virus.
- Pray that as a church we will be outward looking. Pray that in our love and service for God we would serve others with the hope of the gospel.
- Pray for leaders to be just in their decision making. Pray for them to have wisdom and humility.
- Please pray for the elderly and the vulnerable.
- Please Pray for those who are struggling with health challenges. Pray for medical professionals to have wisdom.
- Pray for missionaries and families. Pray that they would be able to share the gospel freely. Pray that they would be safe.

Praises

- Praise God that we have the Holy Spirit with us. Thank God for Jesus who brings light into this world and the lives of people.
- Thank you, God, for your grace and mercy through the cross that brings us into community with you and others.
- Praise God for the opportunities that we have had and will have to share the gospel and his love in our local community.
- Praise God that our relationships can reflect the love and character of God. May we be people of grace and mercy by caring deeply for people.