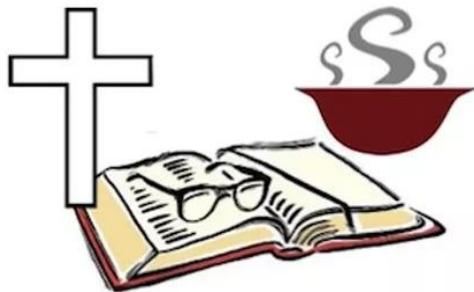


Granite Presbyterian Church

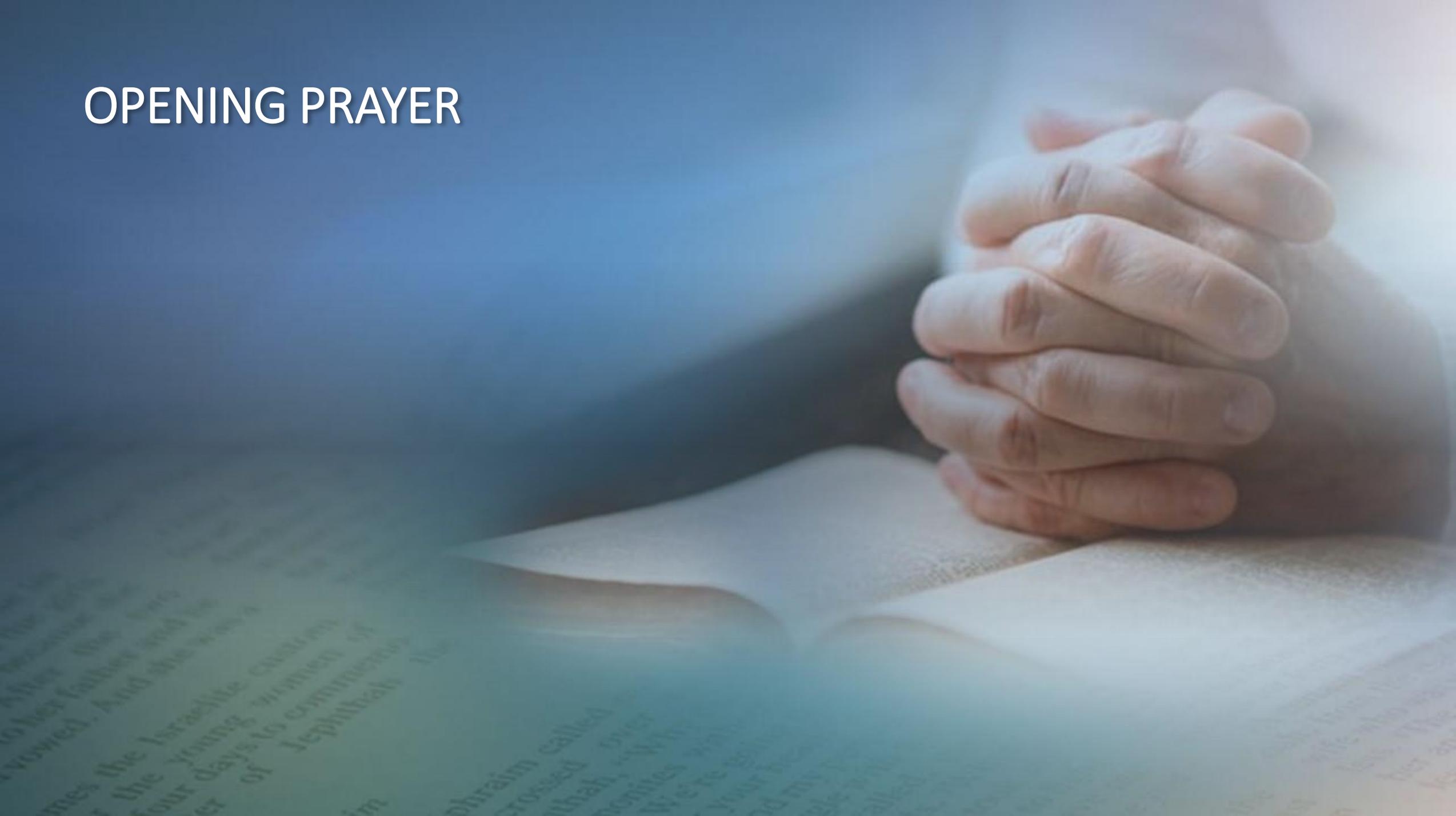
Wednesday, February 24, 2021



Virtual Lent
Soup & Scripture



OPENING PRAYER



2021 LENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE STUDY

Five Wednesdays in Lent:

FEBRUARY 24	Week One:	MEDITATING
MARCH 3	Week Two:	PRAYING
MARCH 10	Week Three:	LOVING
MARCH 17	Week Four:	THANKING
MARCH 24	Week Five:	LIVING

The inspiration for the five subjects is from the Lenten devotional [Living Into Lent](#) by Donald K. McKim (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2020); however, the content of the five study sessions does not come from McKim's book.

PREP:

A 4-Step
Practice for
Spiritual
Growth

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

PRAY

PRAY

. . . whenever you read, hear, or study God's Word, pray for God to be present – in your mind: comprehension, research & study, memories, discernment of meaning, reflections, insight. This type of prayer is known as a Prayer of Invocation – calling God into the experience – or a Prayer of Illumination – asking God to illumine the mind, heart, and spirit in reading, hearing, and studying God's Word.

NOTE: A point of Presbyterian polity: all meetings in the church – Elders, Deacons, congregational meetings, committee meetings, etc. – are to be opened and closed with prayer, as we are gathered in God's presence to do God's work and seek God's blessing on what we are doing and plan to do.



PRAY

(cont'd)

Prayers do not need to be long or flowery – short and to the point are fine. Here are some examples:

“Come, Holy Spirit, Come.”

“Come, Lord Jesus, Come.”

“Lord, help!” – a briefer version of two more familiar prayers of the church: “Lord, make haste to help us.” or “Lord, hear my prayer.” [which are also considered prayers of intercession].

Questions for discussion: What are prayers of invocation – prayers for illumination – that you use? Or might begin to use?

READ

... in the translation, version, or rendering that works best for you.

Examples: New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), New International Version (NIV), New Jerusalem Bible, Good News Bible (first published as Good News for Modern Man in 1966 by the American Bible Society) and also known as Today's English Version, or another Bible of your choosing.

If the primary purpose is personal spiritual growth, you might start with reading one book that is relatively easier to comprehend than some of the other books of the Bible.



READ

(cont'd)

For example: you might start with the Psalms – and then read them one at a time.

Or – you might start with some of the most familiar and inspirational Psalms.

What are some of your favorite Psalms?

What are some Psalms that you have committed to memory?



READ

(cont'd)

You might start with one of the Gospels – and read a chapter, or chapter section – until you complete that Gospel.

What is your favorite Gospel (if you have one)?

You might start with one of the Epistles – Letters – in the New Testament – and read it – slowly. You may need the help of a study Bible.

What is your favorite Epistle (if you have one)?

What are other books of the Bible to which you turn for spiritual growth and development?

ENGAGE

How to engage with the Scripture?

For what purpose(s):

- Head Knowledge
- Heart Renewal
- Spirit Transformation

A simple version of Lectio Divina: read a Psalm or verse three times – one time for basic understanding, a second time – more slowly – noting if any words, phrases, or concepts come to mind, and a third time – for the words to make a deeper impression, to lead to personal application, to serve as a call to action for further study and application.



ENGAGE

(cont'd)

There are many good study Bibles, in a variety of translations, that include questions, commentaries, and study resources to help with spiritual growth and development.

Examples: The Life Application Bible (in multiple translations: Tyndale House/Zondervan); The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible, New Revised Standard Version (HarperSanFrancisco); The Spiritual Formation Bible, New International Version (developed in collaboration with The Upper Room, Zondervan)

Bible apps? Other recommendations?

PRAY

Close the scripture reading and engagement time with prayer.

Similarly, a simple prayer – Lord, help me to live your Word – or close with the Lord's Prayer if that helps to close the time.



CLOSING PRAYER