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Central Congregational Church  
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”  
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## Earth Shaking Prayer

Revelation 8:1-5

Series: The Return of the King – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

### Central Passage

**Revelation 8:1–5 (ESV)** — **1** When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **2** Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. **3** And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, **4** and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. **5** Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

**Central Thought:** Persistent prayer moves us from being helpless spectators or hapless victims, to engaged participants in God’s earth shaking and earth shaping work in the world.

### The Power of Prayer

- ❖ God hears our prayers whether we realize it or not. (vs. 3, 4)

**Psalms 56:8–9 (NLT)** — **8** You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. **9** My enemies will retreat when I call to you for help. This I know: God is on my side!

- ❖ Our prayers move the purposes of God toward fulfillment. (vs. 5)

**Matthew 6:7–10 (ESV)** — **7** “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

### The Practice of Prayer

- ❖ Faithfulness fuels our prayers.

**James 5:16–18 (ESV)** — **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

- ❖ Sin and self-centeredness suffocate our prayers. (vs. 5)

**James 4:1–3 (NLT)** — **1** What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you? **2** You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. **3** **And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.**