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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Praying in the Spirit Romans 8:18-30

Series: (Re)Discovering the Power of Persistent Prayer

Central Passage

Romans 8:26–27 (ESV) — **26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Central Thought: Praying in the Spirit of Jesus Christ enables us to engage the world with both clear-eyed realism and heart-filled hope.

- ❖ Through prayer, we engage the world and ourselves as we really are – fallen, and beyond human repair.

Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV) — **17** And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**"

- ❖ Prayer isn't an escape from reality, but a willingness to enter into God's broken heart for a broken world.

Matthew 9:36 (ESV) — **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Psalms 126:5–6 (ESV) — **5** Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! **6** He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

- ❖ Prayer isn't about perfection, it's about presence and persistence.

1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV) — **11** Seek the LORD and his strength; **seek his presence continually!**

Luke 18:7–8 (ESV) — **7** And will not God give justice to his elect, **who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

Homework

- ❖ Continue reading "Red Moon Rising"
- ❖ Read the passages above in their context in the Bible.
- ❖ Continue (or begin) to set aside times to seek the Lord in prayer, both individually and with others.