

**The New York Annual Conference United Methodist Men**

**Power of Prayer Hosted by Long Island West District**

Date: August 8, 2021 Time: 2:00 4:00 PM

Via ZOOM (ID) 964 845 3714: Password 121500

**Call to Worship**

**(inspired by John 6:35)**

**If you arrive here hungry for more of that divine bread which feeds your soul,**

**then I welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I, your minister, may sometimes disappoint you, but he will not.**

**His grace is sufficient for all your needs.**

***Jesus says: "I am the bread of life.***

***Those who come to me shall not hunger,***

***and those who believe in me shall never thirst."***

**Opening Prayer: Feed Us Now**

**(inspired by John 6)**

**Feed us now, Child of God, as you fed your first disciples.**

**Feed us with that soul-food which nurtures enough love within us to outstrip the fears and enmity that ties the world up in knots.**

**Feed us with that spiritual bread which strengthens our hands**

**for serving those broken and lost people whom this world deems a waste of space.**

**us, so that we may be fulfilled with some of that joy**

**which the universe cannot contain.**

**For your love's sake.**

**Amen!**

~ Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

**Gospel Reflection**

**(inspired by John 6)**

**Much more of soft bread**

**much-loved by the world**

**and sweet on the tongue**

**and we shall be dead.**

**Much more of this bread**

**fresh from the baking**

**and scenting the air**

**and we shall be dead.**

**Much more of this bread**

**though it come to us**

**packaged and sliced**

**and we shall be dead.**

**Yet a crust of Christ's bread**

**with the meek and poor**

**who dare to adore**

**and death is no more.**

~ Copyright Bruce Prewer, 2002. Posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.  
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

## **Psalm 34:1-8**

**34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**34:2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

**34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.**

**34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

**34:5 Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

**34:6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.**

**34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.**

**34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.**

## **Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

**4:25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to**

our neighbors, for we are members of one another.

**4:26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,**

**4:27 and do not make room for the devil. 4:28 Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.**

**4:29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.**

**4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.**

**4:31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,**

**4:32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.**

**5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,**

**5:2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**Welcome: Jamie Novestares : New York  
Annual Conference Prayer Advocate  
Request for Prayer for world Bishop,**

# **Pastors Leaders, Churches, Teachers, First Responders, etc.**

## **Prayer for Others**

**Gracious God,**

**today's scripture reminds us that words matter**

**and that the way we choose our words**

**holds within it the capacity to either harm or heal, to wound or welcome.**

**In this time when words are tossed around so casually,**

**may our words be used to build up the Body of Christ**

**and share love and compassion in a broken and battered world.**

**Holy and Merciful God, hear our prayer.**

**Healing God,**

**we pray for those who have been hurt by words of hate:**

**for refugees and immigrants with or without documentation,**

**for women and girls who have endured words of sexism,**

**for people of color who hear words of racism,**

**for people with disabilities who are told they are "less than,"**

**for elderly people who are told they are useless,**

**for young adults who are told they are entitled, selfish, and irresponsible.**

**God of the Living Word, help us speak the truth in love**

**and to care for one another with the words we choose to speak.**

**Holy and Merciful God, hear our prayer.**

**God of Healing and Wholeness,**

**we lift up to you our words of prayer**

**for the people near and dear to our hearts**

**as we lift them up silently before you...**

**Holy and Merciful God, hear our prayer.**

**Triune God,**

**we love you for you hear our voice and our supplications.**

**We lift these prayers to your ears**

**along with the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:**

**Our Father...**

~ excerpted from a long prayer written by Stephen M. Fearing, Beaumont Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY. Posted on Liturgy Link. <https://www.liturgylink.net/>

# **Rev. Kent the Gospel Reading and Discussion**

## **John 6:35, 41-51**

**6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

**6:41** Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

**6:42** They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

**6:43** Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves.

**6:44** No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.

**6:45** It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.

**6:46** Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

**6:47** Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.

**6:48** I am the bread of life.

**6:49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

**6:50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.**

**6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."**



I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
Place me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be put to work for you,  
Or set aside for you,  
Praised for you or criticized for you  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things,  
Let me have nothing.  
I freely and fully surrender  
all things to your glory and service  
And now, O wonderful and holy God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
You are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it also be made in heaven.

Amen.

-Wesley Covenant Prayer

## **Commission & Benediction**

(inspired by Ephesians 4:25-5:2)

**Go out and imitate God, living in love.  
Put your hope in God's Word  
and let your own words be truthful and constructive.  
May sin rouse your anger,  
..but never let anger cause you to sin.  
Don't allow any room for evil.**

**And may God always hear your voice.  
May Christ Jesus raise you to new life;  
and may the Holy Spirit nourish you for the life of love.**

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
....In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.