



# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

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MARCH 10, 2024

## WORSHIP – CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

*What is our hope in life and death?*

*Christ alone, Christ alone*

*What is our only confidence?*

*That our souls to Him belong*

*Who holds our days within His hand?*

*What comes apart from His command?*

*And what will keep us to the end?*

*The love of Christ in which we stand*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Our hope springs eternal*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ our hope in life and death*

*What truth can calm the troubled soul?*

*God is good, God is good*

*Where is His grace and goodness known?*

*In our great Redeemer's blood*

*Who holds our faith when fears arise?*

*Who stands above the stormy trial?*

*Who sends the waves that bring us nigh?*

*Unto the shore the rock of Christ*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Our hope springs eternal*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ our hope in life and death*

*Unto the grave what will we sing?*

*Christ He lives, Christ He lives*

*And what reward will heaven bring?*

*Everlasting life with Him*

*There we will rise to meet the Lord*

*Then sin and death will be destroyed*

*And we will feast in endless joy*

*When Christ is ours forevermore*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Our hope springs eternal*

*O sing hallelujah*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ our hope in life and death*

## PRAYER FOCUS – A PRAYER FOR KNOWING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

(posted June 4, 2019 on Crosswalk.com)

Lord, I pray that You would unlock my heart that I might be fully alive to my true identity in You. Give me clear revelation to see myself the way You see me.

Help me to stand in Your truth against all enemy attacks and guard my heart with all vigilance (Proverbs 4:23).

Help me to identify the lies, and reveal to me any places where I am chained to the past in a negative way. I repent of any lies of the past. [Name those lies and ask God to forgive you.] Teach me to hear Your voice and not believe the enemy's destructive lies about who I am.

I thank You for my uniqueness and that I am made in Your image (Genesis 1:27). I want to understand and feel the deep things in Your heart for me (1 Corinthians 2:10-12). I choose to believe the truth about how You see me.

I thank You that I can hope in the future and believe in the good destiny that You have for me. You have a vision for my future.

Help me to live a fruitful life now and overflow with Your love to others.

Give me greater authority in my prayer life.

I want to know You on a deeper level, and I don't want anything to hinder my relationship with You.

I thank You that [Say your name instead of "I"]:

- I am Your child (John 1:12),
- I have been justified (Romans 5:1),
- I am Your friend (John 15:15),
- I belong to You (1 Corinthians 6:20),
- I am a member of Your body (1 Corinthians 12:27),
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by You (2 Corinthians 1:21-22),
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20),
- I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3),
- I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11),
- I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4),
- I am forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)

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- I am adopted as Your child (Ephesians 1:5),
- I have purpose (Ephesians 1:9; 3:11),
- I have hope (Ephesians 1:12),
- I am included (Ephesians 1:13),
- I am an overcomer (1 John 4:4),
- I am protected (John 10:28),
- I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17),
- I am qualified to share in Your inheritance (Colossians 1:12),
- I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21),
- I am safe (1 John 5:18),
- I am part of Your Kingdom (Revelation 1:6),
- I can understand what Your will is (Ephesians 5:17),
- I have God's power (Ephesians 6:10),
- and I am victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Thank You for this new identity I have in You. Help me to live out this truth in my life every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## CREATIVE PRAYER – PASTOR MIKAYLA

At youth, we have been going through a series about prayer. We have talked about the basic concept of prayer—why it is important, asking whether God listens or not, and more. We had time to look at the Lord's Prayer and how it can be more than a memorized paragraph, but an active part of our prayer life.

More recently we are looking at some creative ways to pray to God. Last week I tried something I wasn't so sure about. I played a song (maybe more familiar to the younger generation) called "God Be" by Chris Renzema. I gave each kid a page with the lyrics and after we had listened to the song, I encouraged them to create their own prayers based on lines or words from the song. Sometimes I worry that these more abstract concepts won't make sense to the kids, but I believe it is important to explore the many ways we can connect with God.

With some feedback in our small groups afterwards I was encouraged, but a few days later I saw some students had given their paper back to me and had written on them. All of them were anonymous, but one person had written this on their page: "Dear God, I prayed to you for a long time, asking for peace, hope and a home. After you gave it to me I started to know that for my peace I need you, for my hope I need you, and for my home I need church and you."

I was amazed at how they used the lyrics, but added their own words and thoughts to the prayer. This exercise reminded me that God works within many

things. He can work in the contemporary Christian music kids listen to. He can work through the creative minds of youth. And He certainly works through earnest prayer to Him, just as I saw in these words this kid wrote.

This can encourage each of us to see God in creative ways. Let us use the songs we know well as the beginnings of new prayers. May we not be afraid to talk to God through the words of a poetic melody. If we believe God to be all powerful, we must know that He can be at the other side of a musical prayer to Him.

It is my belief that we are creative because we are made in God's image—the one who is the most creative in all the universe. I believe He hears the innovative words of this student and smiles, seeing their unique prayer based on this song. May we each explore our creative ways of prayer, however that may look to each of us.

## UPDATE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

This weekend we welcome Jonathan and Lynnette Klassen and their two boys as Jon candidates for the role of Teaching Pastor at Mclvor. Various groups will meet with Jon on Saturday, and on Sunday morning he will share his testimony and a message "Do You Want To Know My Secret Identity?" from Genesis 3:1-14.

Let's pray for Jon and Lynette as they walk through this process. If they choose Mclvor, the process would continue with a congregational vote in a couple of weeks.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 3-8pm – Quilters

Wednesday, 7pm – Youth Group and Kids Club

Thursday, 9am, 5pm – Harvest Manitoba Food Bank

March 19, 9:30am – 55+ Walk and Talk

March 20, 9:30am – Quilt Tying

March 25-28 – Mclvor Spring Break Kids Day Camp

March 26, 6:30-8pm – Movers and Shakers Group

March 29, 10am – Good Friday Service "Keeping Vigil at the Cross"

## WAYS TO GIVE

We accept donations by cash or cheque, as well as e-transfers to [mcivor@mcivorchurch.com](mailto:mcivor@mcivorchurch.com) or via credit card on [www.mcivorchurch.com](http://www.mcivorchurch.com). To arrange a gift via Direct Deposit, please contact the office at 204.339.1691.

**\*\* Office hours are Tuesday to Friday 9am–4:30pm. \*\***