**An Invitation to Prayer**

We invite you to fast and pray with us each Thursday in September. You may wish to consider these passages and prayers along with whatever else you are prompted to pray.

*“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” – Rev 3:17-20*

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him?” – Isaiah 58:6-7*

**Confession**

Lord, we confess our spiritual poverty.

We confess the ways we’ve trusted in our worldly resources rather than depending on you for our every need.

We confess the ways our passion and devotion to you has been dulled by the wealth, comforts, and pleasures of this world.

We confess the ways we’ve pursued lives of comfort and excess while often ignoring the needs around us.

**Petition**

We come to you for “gold refined in the fire.” Free us from the pursuit of worldly riches that we might become rich in faith and good deeds.

We come to you for “white clothes to wear.” Free us from the identity we seek in worldly approval and accomplishment, and lay upon us the identity that comes from being “clothed in Christ.”

We come to you for “salve to put on our eyes.” Help us to see the treasures of this world as nothing in comparison with the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Lord, we hear you graciously knocking on the doors of our lives. We invite you back into the very center, as both Savior and Lord.

**Direction**

Lord, give us a fresh vision for a church family that is pursuing a “pure and simple devotion to Christ.” Give us an imagination for what that community looks like.

Lord, what’s the next step you want us to take? As individuals? As a church?

Lord, what are you bringing to mind? What people? What images? What Scriptures?