

Prayer Requests

- Harvest's worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; the class on the church and unity about what the church is and does
- Remodeling the new building
- The church around the world, the PCA, our Presbytery, our children, our visitors, our community, our country, the world.
- National morality, elections, mainline churches, seminaries
- Celestin's work and family
- MTW, SAT-7, MERF, ITEM, Gideons, Brent Kooi in Japan, Gospel for Asia, and other world mission works
- The persecuted church and the church in troubled areas: Iraq, Zimbabwe, Georgia, Israel, Iran, Russia, Congo, India, China, North Korea, etc.
- Liz Deaters – praise!! Home, pain gone. Recuperating from exhaustion now.
- Wilma Nibbelink – viral infection causing spinal nerve damage, in hospital in Orange City, hoping not to have to go back to Sioux City to continue treatment
- Matt and Rebecca Van Essendelft – expecting March 18
- Adam and Kim Doughan – expecting, end of June
- Robin—quick resolution to legal proceedings, God's merciful grace for everyone involved, especially for Kirbee and Brooks; Brooks's trip this week.
- Gary Vander Plaats's dissertation – praise for submission!! favor in the eyes of the readers
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy's falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Jonathan Vander Plaats –in Africa on mercy mission
- Marlo and Darlene in Arizona
- Ron De Groot – work, continued physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends, fighting depression, and physical rehab
- Roy Hoogerhyde—still looking for job, praise for needs met so far and daughter's wedding; pray for trust and provision
- Todd Mouw—that God would keep him safe through hard things in his life
- Loren Mulder—recovering from surgery to repair neck damage suffered in accident, pray for buyer for his dairy cows
- Michele Christy—cancer treatments, recovery from surgery
- High School Seniors

Harvest Community Church *at Prayer*

the midweek meeting, 25 Feb 2009

Devotional

Psalm 31:9-24

Singing

Psalm 31:9-24

PRAYER

Doxology

Psalm 31:9-24 (ESV)

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

¹¹Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

¹⁶Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!

¹⁷O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you;

let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.

¹⁸Let the lying lips be mute, which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.

¹⁹Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you
and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

²⁰In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men;
you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

²¹Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

²²I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from your sight."

But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help.

²³Love the LORD, all you his saints!

The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

²⁴Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

The anguish in vv9-13 is intense. Although vv11-13, 18 identify the situation as one of deadly betrayal—precisely describing Jesus' last 24 hours, v10c makes clear that the worst part of this anguish is guilt before God. No wonder the Lord Jesus would have this psalm on His mind on the cross (cf. v5)! Jesus, who had never sinned and therefore never borne guilt, could yet know from His Bible the certainty of refuge in God when the time came for Him to bear ours!

This psalm has given words to the prayers of David, Jeremiah, Jonah, and even Jesus. But we can pray it with even more confidence. Jesus' cross is our *guarantee* of God's perfect timing in sovereign deliverance (v15), covenant blessing (16a), covenant love (16b), goodness (19a), and protection (v20)?

May we then, with king David and King Jesus, ever cry from our hearts, "Blessed be Yahweh! ... You heard the voice of my pleas (vv21-22)!" May we love Him and be strong and take courage as we wait upon Him (vv23-24)!

Psalm 31:9-24 (tune: "Doxology/Old 100th")

⁹Be merciful to me, O LORD, for my distress knows no relief;
My eyes grow weak with sorrow's tears, my soul and body with my grief.

¹⁰My life in anguish is consumed; my years pass by with many groans.
Through misery my strength has failed, and greatly weakened are my bones.

¹¹Because of all my enemies my neighbours treat me scornfully;
I'm viewed with dread by all my friends—they see me coming and they flee.

¹²I am forgotten as though dead, not even spared a passing thought;
I'm like a jar that's cast away, a useless, broken, shattered pot.

¹³I hear the slander many spread, and terror stalks me all the way.
Against me enemies conspire; they plot to take my life away.

¹⁴But as for me, I trust You, LORD; I say, "You are my God alone."

¹⁵My times are ever in Your hands; save me from foes who hunt me down.

¹⁶Upon Your servant shine Your face; save me in Your unfailing love.

¹⁷Lord, let me not be put to shame, for I have cried to God above.

But let the wicked suffer shame and silent in the grave abide.

¹⁸Suppress the lying lips which speak against the just with haughty pride.

¹⁹Your goodness, LORD, is very great—prepared for those who fear Your name.
You show Your goodness openly to all who Your protection claim.

²⁰Your presence hides and shelters them from those who plot to take their life,
And in Your tent You keep them safe from evil tongues that stir up strife.

²¹The LORD be praised because He showed the wonder of His love to me,
When in a city, I was trapped, surrounded by the enemy.

²²In my alarm I rashly said that I was hidden from Your eyes;
But when I called to You for help, in grace You listened to my cries.

²³O love the LORD, all you His saints! The faithful will be kept by God,
But He will give the proud their due. ²⁴Be strong, take heart; hope in the LORD.