

November 1

God's Gifts

Psalm

*Then everyone will fear; they will tell what God has brought about,
and ponder what he has done.*

Psalm 64:9

Meditation

It was through this variety of gifts that the unity of the body is conserved. As the diverse functions of the several members of the human body, all cooperating together, are necessary to the welfare of the body, so the variety of gifts possessed by different members in the body of Christ, is essential to the growth and unity of that body.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 152

Scripture

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Prayer

Lord, I praise you for the gifts you have given your body. May I use the gifts you have given me to bless others.

November 2

God Our Refuge

Psalm

*Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.
For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.*

Psalm 61:4-5

Meditation

When the heart is beset with anxieties, and burdened with care, it cannot well wait for relief until the regular hour for prayer arrives, but goes at once to God for his strength and guidance. To all such hearts, the habit of ejaculatory prayer is a blessing of inestimable value. By means of it, they are enabled, right in the stress of the emergency, to enter into the closet of their own heart, shut the door, and speak into the ear of a sympathetic and Infinite Father. Here they find refuge in the midst of the storm, and a haven in which they may anchor and find rest and peace.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 92-93

Scripture

In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us.

Hebrews 6:17-18

Prayer

Father, in times of trouble and distress, may I always find refuge in you.

November 3

Comfort

Psalm

*I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right,
and that in faithfulness you have humbled me.
Let your steadfast love become my comfort according to your promise to your servant.
Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.*
Psalm 119:75-77

Meditation

O, for a faith, that in sorrow will give me comfort; in trouble will give me peace; in loss will give me consolation; in poverty will give me contentment; in trial will give me strength; in persecution will give me joy; in death will give me heaven!

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 118

Scripture

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Isaiah 12:1-3

Prayer

God, you are my strength, my might, and my salvation. May I find comfort in your faithfulness and steadfast love.

November 4

Day and Night

Psalm

*Yours is the day, yours also the night; you established the luminaries and the sun.
You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; you made summer and winter.*

Psalm 74:16-17

Meditation

Let all Christians join with us, in crying to God day and night, to remove the obstacles which stand in the way of his work, and give him no rest till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. We heartily unite with our Christian brothers and sisters of every name, in thanksgiving to God for the display of his goodness in the glorious work he is carrying on in our Western country, which we hope will terminate in the universal spread of the gospel, and the unity of the church.

The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery (1804)

Scripture

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:15-17

Prayer

Father, I worship you day and night, crying out for the spread of the gospel and the unity of the church.

November 5

Turning to Christ

Psalm

*Nevertheless I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me with honor.*
Psalm 73:23-24

Meditation

Be entreated by your best friends, by the love of Christ, by the tender mercies of God, by all that is sacred, lovely, and endearing, to turn to the Lord while it is an accepted time and day of salvation. Commit your all into the gracious and merciful hands of him who has loved you, endured the cross, despised the shame, and laid down his life for you. He is your best friend, your only Savior and Redeemer, and if, in madness, you turn away from him and dash the cup of salvation from your lips, despise his goodness, love and mercy, you will lament your folly forever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 177

Scripture

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Luke 13:34-35

Prayer

Precious Jesus, make me willing to turn to you, so you can mother me as a hen does her chicks.

November 6

Humility and Exaltation

Psalm

*For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.*

Psalm 27:5

Meditation

Who, believing with all his heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, will not bow in humble submission to his will? Who will not be influenced by such faith to come to God in his own appointed way, and receive his Holy Spirit?

Who, having received the Spirit through faith, do not love the brothers and sisters, and become one, even as the Father and Son are one?

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 238

Scripture

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 14:10-11

Prayer

Father, I bow in humility before you this day, knowing that you will shelter me in times of trouble and exalt me in your presence.

November 7

Christ the King

Psalm

*Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."*

Psalm 96:9-10

Meditation

Ever since the commencement of this kingdom, the governments of this world have either been directly opposed to it, or, at best, pretended friends; and therefore their influence has always been opposed to the true spirit and genius of the Christian institution. Christians have nothing to expect from them except liberty of conscience and protection from violence, while leading peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and honesty, till Jesus take to himself his great power, and hurl those potentates from their thrones and make his cause triumphant—a consummation devoutly to be wished, and which cannot now be regarded as far distant.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 159-160

Scripture

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Prayer

Jesus, King of Kings, come quickly and reign over all the earth. Remind me today of my true citizenship.

November 8

Fasting and Prayer

Psalm

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:7

Meditation

Were we individually as Nehemiah, to fast, confess, and pray, were we as congregations to proclaim a fast and meet together in the house of God in humble confession and prayer, were we as a people widely scattered abroad to agree to meet in our various houses of worship on the same day with fasting and prayer, were professors of Christianity of the various denominations to do the same—who can tell what floods of glory would roll through our land, through Christendom, throughout the world? God is faithful who has promised.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 174

Scripture

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. Then those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. They stood up in their place and read from the book of the law of the Lord their God for a fourth part of the day, and for another fourth they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.

Nehemiah 9:1-3

Prayer

Father, help me to learn how to be hungry for you alone. I confess my sins to you and rely on your grace, forgiveness, and glory.

November 9

Supper of the Lamb

Psalm

Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not true to his covenant. Yet he, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them; often he restrained his anger, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalm 78:37-38

Meditation

In the gospel feast, all things are prepared by the King of heaven, and the sinner furnishes no part of the entertainment. In accepting the divine invitation one has but to comply with the established usages of the banquet and enjoy the rich provisions so bountifully supplied.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 53-54

Scripture

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Revelation 19:6-9

Prayer

Lord God Almighty, I accept your invitation to the great feast. Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, may your church be a bride covered with the righteous deeds of the saints.

November 10

God Feeds

Psalm

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.*

Psalm 81:10

Meditation

Feed me with the heavenly manna. Gird me with your everlasting arm. Shelter me under the shadow of your wing. Fold me to your loving breast. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to abide in you as the branch abides in the vine. Give me daily a deeper and more vital union with yourself, and grant that I may never lose the blessed consciousness that you are mine and that I am yours.

J. H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 137

Scripture

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Matthew 15:25-28

Prayer

Father, give me this day my daily bread. Lord Jesus, fill me with your very self, the living bread.

November 11

Fasting

Psalm

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.*

Psalm 85:10-13

Meditation

Surely, then, we need no further evidence that fasting is a means ordained by God for the purpose of preparing the soul, on all solemn occasions, for all manner of religious exercise and spiritual enjoyment.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 390

Scripture

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Joel 2:12-16

Prayer

O Lord, as you feed me when I am hungry, help me to fast so I might know it is you who full satisfies. Move me to return to you with my whole heart.

November 12

Pure Religion

Psalm

*Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.*

Psalm 91:14-16

Meditation

Many boast of having the Spirit, who are destitute of it. Have they the Spirit of grace and supplication? Do they pray in secret, and with their families night and morning? If not, is not their religion vain? Is it better than the moral infidel's? Do they bear the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, temperance? The tree is known by its fruits.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1836), 120

Scripture

But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:25-27

Prayer

Lord Jesus. Give me of your Spirit, so I will bear fruit, serving those in need.

November 13

Giving Thanks

Psalm

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1-3

Meditation

To what Christian, given to prayer and communion with God, does there not come, often during the busiest days, a sweet remembrance of God's loving kindness, and merciful providence? How delightful it is, at such times, to lift the heart to God in a moment of thanksgiving and adoration. And this habit tends to bring to our remembrance the unnumbered benefits which we receive from the hand of God, and which we are too prone to forget. Thankfulness for mercies received is the best preparation of heart for seeking additional favors.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 94

Scripture

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer

Father, I give you thanks for all your mercies, your steadfast love, and your infinite patience. I do not deserve these gifts, but I praise you for them!

November 14

Joyful Singing

Psalm

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power,
your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."*
Psalm 66:1-4

Meditation

Now should it appear that the open, but unostentatious display, of all the Christian affections, feelings, sympathies, joys, and delights, in our meetings—in our songs, prayers, and Christian feasts, are parts of God's appointed means of quickening and exalting our piety, and of producing it in others, might it not in that case be made evident to all, that they are all more or less culpable who conceal their joys in the Lord, or refuse to appear as spiritually and heavenly minded as they are?

Alexander Campbell, *Millennial Harbinger* (1836), 181

Scripture

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-20

Prayer

I sing the glory of your name, O Lord! Filled with the Spirit, I give thanks to you.

November 15

Judgment

Psalm

*For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.
For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.*

Psalm 89:17-18

Meditation

Be warned and entreated, then, to turn to the Lord before the day of vengeance shall come—before the terrible announcement shall be made that “time shall be no longer,” but eternity, with all its solemnities and realities, shall be ushered in. may we find mercy of the Lord in that day!

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 455

Scripture

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

Prayer

Father, I thank you for your mercy through Jesus the Christ, that he came to save the world and not to condemn. Your mercy triumphs over judgment!

November 16

Faith

Psalm

*The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.
Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!*
Psalm 97:10-12

Meditation

There is nothing theoretical in the faith recommended in the scriptures. It is wholly of a practical nature, and demonstrates its genuineness by its effects. In purifying the heart, and reconciling us to God and by means of these virtues enabling us to overcome the world, faith is most triumphant and victorious.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 295-296

Scripture

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:18-21

Prayer

Jesus, I believe but increase my faith. May I live faithfully this day, trusting you to guard me.

November 17

Trust God, Not Money

Psalm

*Let them be before the Lord continually, and may his memory be cut off from the earth.
For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the
brokenhearted to their death.*

Psalm 109:15-16

Meditation

First, riches accumulated in defiance of the laws of God and society are a curse to the possessor, and the only way for one to get rid of the curse is to get rid of the unrighteous mammon! Second, the life of trust is a slow but sure growth, the only way to attain to or do great things is to be faithful in that which is least. Do not withhold God's part because it is small, the longer you hold to it the harder it will be for you to let it go.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 182

Scripture

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

James 5:1-6

Prayer

Father, I thank you for my riches and pray you will give me the strength to give them away. May I trust you, not money, for security and worth.

November 18

Joy

Psalm

*He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded,
for a thousand generations,*
Psalm 105:7-8

Meditation

Joy in the Holy Spirit is another property and mark of the kingdom of God. We joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ—in his power to protect and bless us—in his wisdom to guide and direct us—in his love, truth, and goodness—in his faithfulness to his promises—in all his perfections, and promises of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 28-29

Scripture

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.
Habakkuk 3:17-19

Prayer

Lord God, I rejoice in you, even when times are hard. I trust in your unfailing love. I thank you for the joy I have through your Holy Spirit.

November 19

Prayer

Psalm

*For the Lord will build up Zion; he will appear in his glory.
He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their prayer.*

Psalm 102:16-17

Meditation

Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to his will, by faith in Jesus Christ, the mediator betwixt God and men, with a humble confidence of obtaining the things prayed for.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 55

Scripture

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Luke 18:1-8

Prayer

Father, hear the prayers I offer. May I not lose heart but trust in your justice, faithfulness, and love.

November 20

Praise in the Assembly

Psalm

*Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*
Psalm 107:31-32

Meditation

What a wise, benevolent, and independent institution, a Christian congregation is! Nothing is left out of view which can contribute to the temporal and spiritual weal of the brotherhood. They meet in full assembly once every week to remember, praise, and adore the Lord; to share in the participation of his favors.
Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist* (1827), 212

Scripture

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
Revelation 22:1-5

Prayer

Almighty God, I praise you in the congregation of the saints, looking forward to that day when we praise you face to face.

November 21

Unity

Psalm

*The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."
Psalm 118:14-16*

Meditation

That the Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one; consisting of all those in every place that profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him in all things according to the Scriptures, and that manifest the same by their tempers and conduct, and of none else; as none else can be truly and properly called Christians.
Thomas Campbell, *The Declaration and Address*

Scripture

*May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 15:5-6*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as you prayed that all who believe in you might be one, let me work for that unity through the power of the God of steadfastness and encouragement.

November 22

A Pleasant Land

Psalm

*Then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise.
They grumbled in their tents, and did not obey the voice of the Lord.*

Psalm 106:24-25

Meditation

Give the earth peace, O God, and crown the year with increase. Fill our land with piety, virtue, and contentment. Rule, in your fear, the hearts of those who are our rulers. Be pleased to guide the young in your ways of pleasantness. Let the parched places of your church be revived with grace. Widen the boundaries of your kingdom.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 168

Scripture

In that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the stream beds of Judah shall flow with water; a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Wadi Shittim. Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood. But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations.

Joel 3:18-20

Prayer

God of the nations, lead your people throughout the earth into the pleasant land of your kingdom.

November 23

Ransom

Psalm

*The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*
Psalm 121:7-8

Meditation

God proposes, first of all, as introductory to the saving of humanity, his own and well beloved and only begotten son, a personal savior. He does not propose to bring us in touch with a system of abstractions or a set of arbitrary rules imposed simply because he has the power, but to bring us, sin stained, polluted, lost, in contact with one whose virtue cures by the touch! Jesus is a personal Savior, he treats his patients as individuals, one by one and not in the aggregate. What has our Savior done for us already? He says he came to ransom us by exchanging his life for ours.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 94

Scripture

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 1 Peter 1:18-20

Prayer

Holy God, you gave your Son for me. Jesus, Son of God, you gave your precious blood to ransom me. May I live in freedom!

November 24

Prayer

Psalm

*I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your words.
My eyes are awake before each watch of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.*

Psalm 147-148

Meditation

These reflections, it is hoped, will help us to understand better what the apostle means by his exhortation to “pray without ceasing.” Prayer, it is seen, is not a thing to be shut up in one corner of the day, or limited to a brief space in the morning and evening; but it is a pervading habit of the soul which is to shed its holy and hallowing influence over all the hours, and to maintain unbroken communion with God.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 94

Scripture

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Ephesians 1:15-19

Prayer

Father, I bow before you morning and night, crying for help, knowing that you hear. May I always pray so that I might begin to grasp the extent of your love.

November 25

Unity and Service

Psalm

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.*

Psalm 133

Meditation

All preachers will labor to reconcile jarring Christians, instead, as we often see them laboring to excite the angry passions, one against the other. Such plainly show that they have not received the ministry of reconciliation, and it is very doubtful whether they have received the Spirit of Christianity.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 25

Scripture

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28

Prayer

Brother Jesus, make me a servant as you made yourself. May I live in unity and peace with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

November 26

Worship

Psalm

*I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.*
Psalm 143:5-6

Meditation

How precious are the hours appropriated to the worship of the Most High. In the assembly of the saints a heavenly peace diffuses itself over the soul. The swelling anthem of praise bears, upon wings of melody, into the deepest recesses of our nature the transporting truths of revelation, awakens the dearest memories of the past, or marshals in bright array the crowding visions of the future.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 109

Scripture

For thus it shall be on the earth and among the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is ended. They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; they shout from the west over the majesty of the Lord. Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; in the coastlands of the sea glorify the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.
Isaiah 24:13-14

Prayer

Father, I think of all your kindnesses of the past. I sing for joy. I imagine the brightness of your future. I thirst for you. Blessed be the Lord!

November 27

Humility

Psalm

*O Lord, what are human beings that you regard them, or mortals that you think of them?
They are like a breath; their days are like a passing shadow.*

Psalm 144:3-4

Meditation

Show how opposite to truth is sectarianism, and preach union, not of the sects as such, but of Christians, not a union founded on the wisdom or devices of humans, but that based upon the word of God, not only of the letter, but of the spirit of the word. Be careful to avoid all offensive language as much as possible. Let all your things be done with charity, humility, and meekness, but with boldness in the faith.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 35

Scripture

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do
justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:7-8

Prayer

Father, forgive my pride that divides me from you and your people. May I do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

November 28

Our Creator

Psalm

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

Psalm 33:6-8

Meditation

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, who from the beginning did appoint the day and the night to succeed each other, and have, now by your providence brought us once again through the hours of toil to the time of resting; be with us, we pray you, during the season of darkness, and cause the light of your countenance to shine upon our souls.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 173

Scripture

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

Prayer

Almighty Creator, you spoke the world into existence, you formed humans from the dust, and you brought us light. Lord give me the light of your presence this day.

November 29

The Holy Spirit

Psalm

*O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.*
Psalm 25:20-22

Meditation

The Spirit of the Father, flows through the Son into every member of his spiritual body. Though humans may, and do possess this Spirit, if one be a Christian, yet we do not call it the human spirit, but the Spirit of God in us; the Spirit received by faith. When we receive this Spirit we are made "partakers of the divine nature." This is the Spirit that groans and prays, as it did in the great head of the body, the son of God.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 166

Scripture

*But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.*
Romans 8:9-11

Prayer

God of love, fill me with your Spirit, so I may have life this day. You have given me of yourself, dear God. May I share in your very life.

November 30

Psalm

*O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.*

Psalm 98:1

Meditation

Who does not see in this petition, that the words or testimony of the apostles, the unity of the disciples, and the conviction of the world are bound together by the wisdom and the love of the Father, by the devotion and philanthropy of the Son.

Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist* (1825), 156

Scripture

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17:20-23

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as you prayed for unity among Christians, so I also pray this day.
Make us one as you and the Father are one.