



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH

Lord Jesus,

We've been here before - the day after our conference...the day after a season in the church...the day after something we anticipated and spent days or weeks longing for. It is this day after when we realize that the moment is now behind us and it is in our past. It is in the day after where we are left with a choice - how will we take up what comes next?

And so here on the day after, help us to see that what we need most of all is not just a reminder of an experience, but rather an opportunity to lean in to tomorrow. Help us to have your hope released into us - a hope that brings transformation - a hope that seeks to encounter your heart - a hope that burns within our souls. We want and need to have the presence of your Spirit continue to draw us into expectation - to woo us closer to you glory - to keep us anticipating what you could do in the moments before us.

Lord, help us to remember that these moments were a gift of mercy that you desire us to experience. Whether we embraced these days or fretted through them, help us even now to be wrapped in a grace of possibility. Give us the ability to hold on to your hand as we return to the valley. Give us the awareness that it is you we cling to as we imagine new possibilities and seek your glory sightings around us.

Fill us once again, on this day after, with your hope, joy, peace, and love. Empower us with your Holy Spirit - giving us all we need to live as your beloved children. Grant us courage and favor as we love and lead your church and the communities you have planted us within.

Grant us eyes to see - hearts that love your way - arms to embrace - feet that walk alongside - and the discipline to stay ever close to you. We thank you for your abiding presence and promise to never leave us. We bless your name, O most high and exalted God, for it is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we offer this prayer.

Amen.

Rev. Jim Nichols, pastor at Andover UMC