
“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team

For the week of December 29, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Ending the Year in Praise

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven! Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp! . . . Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:1-3, 6

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I join those in your heavenly dwelling to worship you for your mighty works. I praise your unequalled greatness. I praise you with my whole heart for how you’ve sustained me in the year that is ending, for your faithfulness, love, and protection. Thank you for how you’ll be with me each day in the new year. Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord!

Notable Quote

To the ear of God everything he created makes exquisite music, and man joined in the paean of praise until he fell, then there came in the frantic discord of sin. The realization of redemption brings man by way of the minor note of repentance back into tune with praise again.

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Reflection

What a way to end the year—praising the Lord for his mighty works, his unequalled greatness. This psalm, also called the last hallelujah, invites us to join the praises to God in the holy place. The praise is not half-hearted; it is full-force praise with musical instruments—tambourine, stringed instruments, the lyre, the cymbals—and dancing, praise from everyone. When we offer God praise, we’re doing what we were created for, even if we’re not the best musician or dancer. All of us can raise our voices singing hymns, choruses, and new songs to the Lord.

How has God blessed you, your family, friends, or church this year? What mighty works has he accomplished? What progress have you made in an area in which you’ve struggled? What prayers has God answered? What new attributes or aspects of God have you discovered or experienced in the past year? Lift up your voice or whatever instrument you play, and praise the Lord for these specific things as you pray this psalm aloud.

PRAYER PROMPTS

This week you are encouraged to spend time each day going through the thoughts for this week, and using the questions in the Reflection as a guide for praise and prayer—first, as it is worded, as a reflection on the past year, and then changing the perspective to the future, seeking God’s blessing in each area for the coming year.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.