

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of March 19, 2017

Quietly Waiting (Psalm 62:5-7)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003).. Today’s reflection is especially appropriate as we have an Open Forum regarding our succession planning.

This week’s reflection ties in both to Pastor Dave’s sermon today (“A Still, Small Voice”) and the prayerful and expectant journey of our succession planning over nearly a year and a half.

READ: I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. *Psalm 62:5-7*

REFLECT: In this psalm David pours out his heart to God, describing his difficulties, the enemies that are trying to kill him, and the lies and curses others have spoken against him. But on the battlefield of life, in the middle of every trouble, David has a Godward focus. He is honest about his complaints and problems, but he has purposed to direct his gaze to the God of all faithfulness, putting his trust in the One who alone is his rock, salvation, fortress, and refuge. He then can wait quietly before God because he has put his hope, and his very life, in the Lord’s hands. He doesn’t trust in human nature because it is more secure than a breath. He doesn’t put his hope in riches because he knows that wealth will not save him. His hope, confidence, and trust are in the Lord Almighty.

If, like David, we are waiting for God to act when we are in the midst of trouble, we can wait frantically or impatiently. But to wait quietly in hope takes a deep confidence in knowing the One we are waiting for. He will never disappoint us.

PRAY: *LORD, lift my eyes up to you, my rock, my salvation, my fortress, and my refuge. Quiet my heart to wait on you, for my hope is in you. Help me to wait for you in the storms, in the light, and in the darkness. Let my confidence not be shaken by what my heart may feel, circumstances may say, or my mind may think. My confidence rests on the One who is my rock and that **you** will never be shaken.*

QUOTE: We must wait for God, long, meekly, in the wind and wet, in the thunder and lightning, in the cold and the dark. Wait, and he will come.
Frederick William Faber

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “Days of Elijah—A Still, Small Voice” (1 Kings 19:7-14)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts, which have brought us today to vote on the approval of basic Terms of an agreement to sell our property to Vineyard Church of DuPage, If the vote is favorable, we will then engage in the process of working out the details over the next few months.

* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”