

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

For the week of April 16, 2017

Sing a New Song (Psalm 96:1-3)

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)..

This week’s reflection is a fitting response to Easter and to Pastor Dave’s Easter sermon, “Tell People...the Truth”

READ: Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord; bless his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

Psalm 96:1-3

REFLECT: Every day we cross paths with someone who needs to hear the good news that the Lord saves. We can never fully plumb the depths of God’s character and attributes, but with every day and every experience we can discover new facets about God, new songs to sing to him. To “publish” means to share and that refers not only to writing books and delivering sermons about God but also to sharing what the Lord has done in our own lives so that others might be drawn to him. Each of us can purpose to do that. The most powerful evangelism doesn’t take place within the four walls of a church building. It occurs as we share with others in our neighborhood and workplace the good news of what God has done for us individually and for the whole world in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ask God to bring people across your path today who need to hear the good news that God saves and that he loves them. And then ask him for the compassion and courage to share the reason for your hope and to pray for those people.

PRAY: *Lord, I want to sing a new song to you and bless your name. I want to tell everyone about the amazing things you do. Help me to start today, right where I am, to proclaim the good news of salvation and to publish your glorious deeds everywhere I go. Give me the words to share from your heart with those I will meet.*

QUOTE: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer’s praise! *Charles Wesley*

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 Easter Sunday message* “Tell People . . . the Truth” (Matthew 28:11-15)—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.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming months, with the formal transfer likely to occur on or about August 1. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! Pray also that, through it all and despite much sadness, in the end there will be a sense of joy in successfully “ending well” and “passing the baton” to Vineyard.

** 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.”