

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

For the week of January 15, 2017

His Burden is Light (Matthew 11:28-30)

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. For our Touch Points in 2017, we return to “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003), which was first used in 2013-14.

READ: Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly and the burden I give you is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

REFLECT: What heavy burden is weighing you down and causing a heaviness and weariness in your spirit? [Make your list of burdens that you face...]

Whatever your “heavy burden” might be, Jesus invites you, just as he did the crowds he was teaching: *Come to me. Give me the heavy load you’re carrying. And in exchange, I will give you rest.*

Whenever I read these verses from Matthew, I breathe a sigh of relief. Jesus knows the challenges and deadlines we face and the weariness of mind or body we feel. He understands the stress, tasks, and responsibilities that are weighing us down. As we lay all that concerns us before him, his purpose replaces our agenda, and his lightness and rest replace our burden.

PRAY: *Lord, thank you for your offer to carry my burdens for me. I give them all to you and I gladly receive your rest! I place myself under your yoke to learn from you. Teach me your wisdom that is humble and pure, and help me to walk in the ways you set before me. Thank you for your mercy and love that invite me to live resting and trusting in you!*

QUOTE: When He says to your disturbed, distracted, restless soul or mind, “Come unto me,” He is saying, come out of the strife and doubt and struggle or what is at the moment where you stand, into that which was and is and is to be—the eternal, the essential, the absolute. *Phillips Brooks*

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). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “Putting Jesus in His Place” (Part 2 – Matthew 16:13-17)—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, particularly for our Negotiating Team as it works with a church in Wheaton that made an offer to purchase our property (we plan to use the proceeds to establish an Evangel Missions Legacy Fund to continue our commitment to missions for 8-10 years or more). We are currently awaiting a response to our most recent counter-offer on the basic terms of a sale.

* 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.”