



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG MISSION

October 2022

Trunk or Treat

We're going to host a Trunk or Treat once again this year! Trunk or Treat is a great way for kids to have some fun in their costumes and get a bunch of treats all in one safe, contained space.

We're going to try adding a craft and bake sale to this event as well, so bring any baked goods or craft items you're willing to sell. And if you're willing to be one of the people sitting at the craft/bake sale table to take people's money and make change, please let Pastor Lisa know.

Date: **Saturday, October 29**

Time: **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Place: **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

** We will host this event **RAIN OR SHINE**. If it's raining, we'll move indoors.**

Lunch will be available inside the church (free will offering):

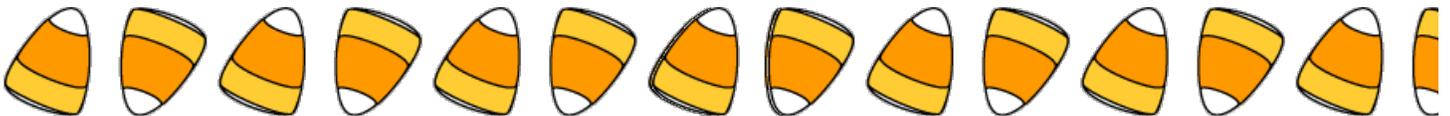
Hot dogs

Chips

Water/juice

Cookies

We will be asking various Oronoco businesses and organizations if they would like to participate as well. And, once again, we'll have a photo booth set up for parents and kiddos to take pictures in their costumes. Please consider bringing treats to hand out to the kiddos! The more trunks we have, the better!



Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Secretary: Brianna Clement

Musicians: Raquel "Rocky" Nisbit
Zara Boon

Church Leadership

Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Geoff Warner, Ruling Elder
Todd Wickre, Ruling Elder

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Gail Rucker, Deacon
Ellen Simon, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Cindy Luhman, Deacon
Karen Peterson-Rucker, Deacon



From the Pastor ...

October – the month of pumpkin spice *everything*, *fall colors*, and ... *Halloween!*

It's the time of year when all the different horror movies that have come out over the decades make their reruns on all the cable channels. And it's a *long list!*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Psycho (1960) | 12.The Birds (1963) |
| 2. The Exorcist (1973) | 13.Bride of Frankenstein (1935) |
| 3. Rosemary's Baby (1968) | 14.The Haunting (1963) |
| 4. A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984) | 15.The Silence of the Lambs (1991) |
| 5. Carrie (1976) | 16.Final Destination (2000) |
| 6. Saw (2004) | 17.The Omen (1976) |
| 7. The Shining (1980) | 18.Poltergeist (1982) |
| 8. Scream (1996) | 19.Halloween (1978) |
| 9. Nosferatu (1920) | 20.The Blair Witch Project (1999) |
| 10.The Conjuring (2013) | <i>partial list from Marie Claire magazine</i> |
| 11.Alien (1979) | |

It's not just movies, though. Humans have been fascinated with scary stories – telling them, hearing them, writing them, sharing them – for centuries:

1. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving (1820)*
2. *Dracula by Bram Stoker (1897)*
3. *Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (1818)*
4. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (1886)*
5. *It by Stephen King (1986)*
6. *Coraline by Neil Gaiman (2002)*
7. *The Complete Stories and Poems by Edgar Allen Poe (various publishing dates)*
8. *Interview with the Vampire by Anne Rice (1976)*
9. *The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson (1959)*
10. *The Amityville Horror by Jay Anson (1977)*

But scary stories and creepy tales aren't relegated only to the pages of contemporary literature or even classic literature. There are plenty of spooky stories found within the pages of Scripture:

1 Samuel 28:3-19: This is the story of Saul and the woman of En-dor, a spiritual medium

(and no, all you Star Wars officiantos ... she's not an ewok). The Philistine army is amassed on Saul's doorstep. He's had a really bad few years as his own kingship has floundered, and it's become clearer and clearer that David will soon be king. Time and again, Saul has turned away from God, then been called to account and to repent by Samuel, David, and others. And Saul is devastated by the recent death of Samuel. So in his agitated state, Saul disguises himself, goes to visit the medium of En-dor under cover of nighttime, and asks the medium to call upon Samuel's ghost. The medium complies, and Saul begs Samuel's ghost for advice: "I'm in deep trouble! The Philistines are at war with me, and God has turned away from me and no longer answers me by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what I should do" (v. 15). Far from receiving the advice he was looking for, though, Saul instead learned from Samuel that Saul and his sons would be joining Samuel by the end of the following day ... a prediction that actually comes true!

Truly a tale worthy of Poe or Irving or King! But like all the other stories found throughout the Bible, there are lessons we can learn from this fright-filled tale. We've all been in Saul's shoes. We've all got people that we have loved and lost – people that we would deeply and desperately love to speak to again. So we can't really blame Saul for this particular action.

The greater issue in this particular story is the same issue that applies to all of the scary stories and creepy tales – the ones that we read and the ones that we live: fear. Saul feared for his life, feared for his kingship, feared for his legacy. And for Saul, this was more than just a nagging worry. This was a deep-seated, all-consuming fear. This was the kind of fear that occupied Saul's every waking moment, every thought in his head and every corner of his soul.

When we watch horror movies or read scary stories, we ultimately find joy in the experience. We have had an adventure – complete with moments of abject shock and the racing hearts to go with them! – yet remained in the safety of our own homes. We have come to the end of the tale and find ourselves still alive, a revelation that certainly inspires joy! And with the memory of the horrors and the fear of the story fresh in our minds, we find joy in the simple, safe normality of our day-to-day lives.

While it's certainly my hope that none of you have ever experienced the sheer terror of any of the characters in those scary stories, there are plenty of other experiences and encounters in our lives that inspire fear within us – fear for ourselves, fear for our families and loved ones, fear for the world. In the face of his fear, Saul turned to the wrong places. He turned to humans – to his generals, to Samuel, to David, and

eventually to the medium of En-dor. He even turned to a ghost! And while he groused to Samuel's ghost that God had turned away from him, in reality, it was Saul who had long ago turned away from God.

So enjoy whatever horror stories are a part of your Halloween traditions! Let the momentary distress of the scariest parts remind you that you are alive, that you are safe, and that there is joy to be found in even the most routine, mundane parts of our lives. But when real fear rears its unwelcomed, grievous, ugly head, turn to God with all that you have and all that you are. While I can't promise you that God will swoop in and save you like some spiritual superhero, God will surround you with strength and hope, comfort and promise.

After all,

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Should I fear anyone?
The Lord is a fortress
protecting my life.
Should I be frightened of anything?"
~ Psalm 27:1*

Pastor Lisa

Keeping Up with the Smith-Mathers

First, the update: According to their last newsletter, Shelvis has finally been able to return to Oxford University in England to resume his doctoral work in peacebuilding strategies. Nancy and the kids – Jordan, Addie, Nicole, and Alice – remain here in the United States.



For the last few years, we've been helping to support Shelvis and Nancy and their family with our 2nd Sunday Spare Change offering and our prayers. A few times a year, our treasurer would deposit whatever had accumulated from that offering in the bank, then send the total as a donation directly to the Smith-Mathers' Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) account.

Recently, however, PMA has decided to change the way they distribute their mission funds. Instead of individual people and/or congregations contributing directly to the accounts of specific mission co-workers, all contributions will go into a general fund and distributed to all mission co-workers from there. This change has been made in an attempt to make mission co-worker support more equitable, especially for those co-workers who may be serving in areas that are especially remote or even dangerous and therefore cannot easily relay updates or connect with supporting individuals/congregations.

Donations can still be made in honor of specific mission co-workers – Shelvis and Nancy, in our case. And of course, we can always pray for them and their family in all times and places. But if you can't be here in person to contribute to our Spare Change offering, you can still help support Shelvis and Nancy.

Visit their Presbyterian Mission Agency page:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. From there, you can click on the green box under their (completely adorable) family picture that says, "Give in honor of the ministry of Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather." This will redirect you to the PMA donation page.

You can also click on the blue box that says "Subscribe to our letters" to start receiving Shelvis and Nancy's occasional updates in your inbox. They send a wonderful, entertaining, touchingly personal update roughly quarterly.

Next Session meeting.:

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

Next Presbytery Meeting:

**Tuesday,
November 11 & 12, 2022
Via Zoom**

October Scripture Readings



Sunday, October 2– Exodus 12:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 9– Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

Sunday, October 16– Joshua 24:1-2, 14-26

Sunday, October 23– 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13-15

Sunday, October 30– 1 Kings 3:4-28

Worship Readers



One of the things that we were doing before the pandemic was having various people from the congregation reading the Scripture on Sunday mornings. I've had a number of people express a desire to go back to that, so we're doing it! Starting on Sunday, October 11, there will be a larger print copy of the Scripture reading for the morning on the lectern. If you're willing to read, feel free to grab the reading on the way to your seat. Just remember to turn the mic on when the time comes!

Fall Theme: Colors of the Covenant



As we embark on the readings of the Narrative Lectionary for the fourth year in a row, this year's fall readings begin with the story of Noah and continue through some more of the stories pertaining to God's covenants with the people. On the whole, they aren't the "typical" covenant stories, so they'll be covering all the different aspects of covenant – all the shades and variations, the full spectrum. So as we journey through this spectrum of covenant promises, we'll be unfurling the spectrum of that first covenant – Noah's rainbow covenant with God – each week. It promises to be quite the visual experience (see what I did there?), so come check it out! The final Sunday for this will be October 23, and we'll leave the visual experience up through October 30.

Pastor's Office Hours

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, my Monday office hours are going to be a little bit different. Julia will be in preschool this year (WHAT?!?!?) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. That means that I'm going to have to get her out to the Pine Island Elementary School at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays and pick her (and the boys) up at 3:00 p.m. With a schedule like that, it'll be a lot easier for me to work from home on Monday afternoon throughout the school year. Of course, I'm still available for phone calls, texts, afternoon coffee dates, etc. ... as long as I'm back in Pine Island by 3:00 p.m.



"Beloveds" Tree

I'm sure you've noticed that we've had to take down a few of the big, beautiful trees in our front lawn over the last couple of years. We've done this for the safety of the building and the community because these trees were definitely not in the greatest shape. But it also left our front yard looking a little bit bare. Thankfully, we've still got a number of lovely trees out there, but the Session has decided that we'd like to plant a new tree as well. We've also decided that this tree will be a tree in honor of loved ones that we've lost – sort of like a permanent, natural version of our All Saint's Day banners.



There is now an envelope next to the offering plates in the sanctuary labeled "Beloveds Tree." If you'd like to contribute to the fund for this tree, we invite you to put your donations in that envelope. There will also be notecards next to the envelope. Please write down the name(s) of the loved ones you're remembering on those cards and place them in the envelope as well.

Oronoco Food Shelf Monthly Item

We've got a new monthly piece that will be showing up in the newsletter! The OFS volunteer responsible for ordering has given us a list of monthly needs – a specific item that the Food Shelf could use that month. This monthly item will also be posted on our church Facebook page, so feel free to find it every month and share the image!



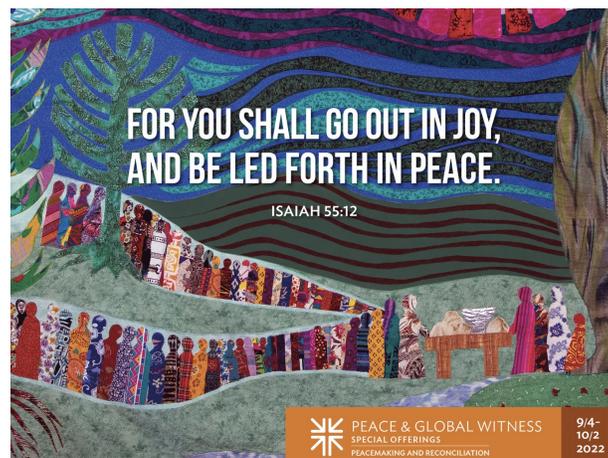
Peace & Global Witness Offering— World Communion Sunday

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October. World Communion Sunday (formerly called World Wide Communion Sunday) actually originated within the Presbyterian Church and has been adopted by denominations and congregations around the world. The first World Communion Sunday was celebrated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 by Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr.

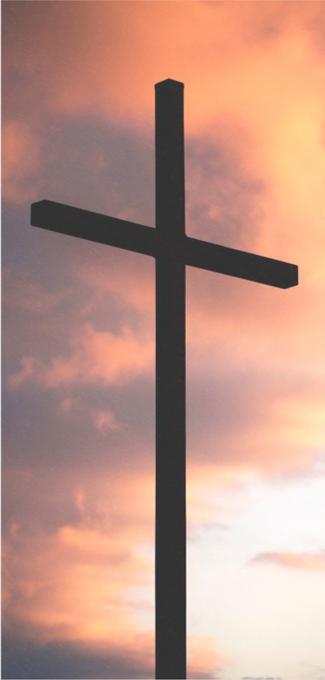
In the PC(USA) today, the Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world:

- 25% goes to our own congregational peace and mission efforts (to People of the Church)
- 25% goes to Presbytery and synod peace and mission efforts
- 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for peacemaking and reconciliation ministries

We will collect our Peace and Global Witness Offering during worship on World Communion Sunday – October 2, 2022. If you're not going to be in worship that day, you can still help support this critical denomination-wide offering by visiting <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>. Click on "Give Now," make sure "Give Once" is highlighted, then select "Peace and Global Witness" from the dropdown menu titled "Designated Offering." On the next page, as you fill in your information, include "Presbyterian Church of Oronoco" in the box labeled "Name of Local Congregation."



Prayer Practice Extras



If you try this month's SCRIPTURE-BASED prayer practices and find them really appealing to you, consider trying these other Scripture-based prayer practices, too:

- **Lectio divina:** Choose a short Scripture passage, no more than 10 verses. Begin with prayer, then read your Scripture passage, preferably aloud. Pause and spend a few moments in silence, listening for God to speak to you. Read through the passage again, paying attention to how you sense the Scripture. Using your imagination, what do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you taste? What do you feel? Pause again and spend a few moments in silence. Next, read through the passage a third time, looking/listening for a word or phrase from the passage that speaks to you. Once again, pause and spend a few moments in silence. Read through the passage one final time, this time listening for what God is saying to you in this passage. What is God calling you to do? What is God trying to teach you? Pause one final time and listen to God in silence before you close in prayer.

- **Breath prayers:** Choose a short, simple phrase and break it up into two parts. As you breathe in, pray the first part. As you breathe out, pray the second part. Or, if it's a single word, pray that word slowly as you breathe in and out, letting that word help you focus on God and open yourself fully to God.
- **Confessions/Blessings:** Choose a passage of Scripture. As you read through it, allow that passage to help you see areas in your life that you need to bring before God in confession and repentance OR open your eyes and your heart to blessings in your life.
- **Praying the Psalms:** Choose a psalm. Read through it once or twice for familiarity. Then read through it again slowly, making the words of the psalm your own prayer.
- **Dialoguing with Scripture:** Choose a story from Scripture. Read through it once or twice for familiarity. Then read through it again slowly and choose one character to have a conversation with – something along the theme of your passage. Imagine that conversation and write it out. Then reflect on your choices (story/character) and conversation.
- **Embodying Scripture:** Choose a passage from Scripture. Read through it once or twice for familiarity. Then, as you read through it again, let your body move with the passage. Simple movements. "Acting out" the story. Dance. Just let the Scripture and the Holy Spirit inspire your movements.

October Star Word

Are there any actions, habits, etc. that you've decided need to fall by the wayside as you've reflected on your star word?



Unconventional Ways to Give

- Designate “Presbyterian Church of OROCO” as your Amazon Smile organization, and 0.5% of all your eligible Amazon purchases will come back to the church on a quarterly basis.
- Give online through our Presbyterian Foundation account using either the link on our website



Weekly Prayer Services

Throughout the fall, we're holding weekly prayer services on **Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:15 p.m.** These services will run through December, then we'll re-evaluate from there and see if we want to continue.

The idea is for these services is to be mostly a time for quiet prayer. We'll begin with a short opening together. The lights in the sanctuary will be lower and there will be soft music playing in the background. If you'd like to use this time to sit silently in your own prayer, you're welcome to do that. If you'd like to use this time to try the highlighted prayer practices for the month, you're welcome to do that, too. If you'd like to use this time to pray with someone – either someone in the congregation or Pastor Lisa – you're also welcome to do that. This is really meant to help you make some scheduled time for God in the midst of your week..

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Vigil

October 15 is designated as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day – a day set aside to remember all of those precious angel babies that have been held in the hearts of their loved ones, even if they never got to hold them in their arms. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month in 1988, and October 15th has grown into a specific day for families to remember together, grieve together, and honor their littlest loved ones together.



This year, we're going to host a vigil to honor all those who have experienced this terrible kind of loss. We're planning a short service as well as a walk down to the river to release pink and blue rose petals and (eco-friendly) floating candles into the Zumbro River. Following the service and walk, there will be coffee and cookies available at the church for those who would like to stay and spend some time either with others or in prayer in the sanctuary.

Date: **Saturday, October 15**

Time: **4:00 p.m.**

People of the Church Meeting RESULTS

On **Sunday, September 11**, we held a People of the Church meeting. At this meeting, we decided a few things:

- the date of this year's Christmas cookie sale will be **Saturday, December 10**
- we will not be resuming the luncheons
- we will be dedicating the free will offering from the Trunk or Treat lunch/bake/craft sale, the proceeds from the Christmas cookie sale, and the free will offering from other future events (e.g. – Easter egg hunt) to the POC mission usage
- we talked about holding a silent auction (possibly in March which the Outreach Team will talk about further.

All Saints' Day Commemoration

This year, we will once again be taking some time to commemorate those who have gone before us – those who have been beacons of hope and grace and love in our lives but whose light now fills the halls of heaven. Throughout the month of October, we will have the colorful prayer flags and some markers available in the back of the sanctuary. Putting one name on each flag, please feel free to honor as many people as are near and dear to your heart so that during our All Saints' Day commemoration on **Sunday, November 6**, we may be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.





Prayer Requests

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

~ Philippians 4:6-7

And so we lift up **Helen Craft, Katha and Carlyle Johnson**, and in prayer.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ♥ 10/1 Hadley Thompson
- ♥ 10/3 Bri Clement
- ♥ 10/8 Ted Midthun
- ♥ 10/10 Keanan Peterson-Rucker
- ♥ 10/13 Ron & Karen Peterson-Rucker
- ♥ 10/18 Clyde Johnson
- ♥ 10/28 Ellen Simon

Staying in Touch

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

Office: 507-367-4711

Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Website: <http://www.oronocochurch.org>

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Office: 651-357-1150

Fax: 651-357-1141

Email: office@ptcaweb.org

Website: <http://www.presbyterytwincities.org>

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Office: 800-728-7228

Email: info@pcusa.org

Website: <http://www.pcusa.org>



October 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| Worship 10 am | 3  | 4  | 5 Prayer Service 5:45pm Session Meeting 6:30 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Worship 10 am | 10 | 11 | 12 Prayer Service 5:45pm | 13 | 14  | 15 Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Vigil 4 pm |
| Worship 10 am | 17 | 18 | 19 Prayer Service 5:45pm | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Worship 10 am | 24 | 25 | 26 Prayer Service 5:45pm | 27  | 28 | 29 Trunk or Treat 11 am |
| Worship 10 am | 31  | | | | | |

EVENTS

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Vigil

Date: Saturday October 15
Time: 4:00 pm

Trunk or Treat

Date: Saturday October 29
Time: 11:00 am- 1:00 pm
*We will host this even Rain or Shine

SCRIPTURE-BASED PRAYER

Basic idea: prayer practices that heavily utilize Scripture → Essentially, God's word guides and informs our lives. Since prayer is an essential element of our lives, the idea of Scripture guiding and forming and informing our prayer lives makes sense, right?

Scripture references:

- Ps 119:10-11, 15-16, 18, 47-48, 105: I have sought you with all my heart. Don't let me stray from any of your commandments! I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you. ... I will think about your precepts and examine all your paths. I will delight in your statutes; I will never forget what you have said. ... Open my eyes so I can examine the wonders of your Instruction! ... I will rejoice in your commandments because I love them. I will lift up my hands to your commandments because I love them, and I will contemplate all your statutes. ... Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.
- Deut 6:6-9: These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

Prayer practices:

- Prayer of the Senses
 - This is a 2-pronged approach to prayer that allows us to both focus our attention on the life of Christ through the Scriptural narrative and enables us to ask for God's guidance and to listen for and follow that guidance. This type of prayer requires both intellectual work and emotional presence.
 - "We meditate on a biblical story using our imaginations to experience the text with all our senses, finally entering the scene imaginatively and conversing with the characters." – Gary Neal Hansen, *Kneeling with Giants*, p. 107
 - Steps – adult
 1. Pray.
 2. Choose a short story from Scripture. If you're unsure where to start, try one of the gospels. *Some books to avoid for this particular prayer practice* Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and any of the New Testament epistles (Romans-Jude).

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3. Read through the story one time for each of the five senses: sight, sought, taste, feel, and smell. As you read through each time, imagine yourself as one of the characters in the story.
 4. Each time you read through, focus on one of the senses and prayerfully consider how you would experience that sense if you were in the midst of that story. If you'd like, feel free to write down your impressions, sketch them, or record them in any way.
 5. As you imagine yourself in the story, prayerfully bring a question to Jesus – a question from your life. Then spend some time in silence listening for how God may answer you.
 6. Close with prayer.
- Steps – kid adaptation
 1. Pray together, “God, help me listen. God, help me understand. God, help me follow you. I love you, God. Amen.”
 2. Choose two short stories from Scripture (the gospels is a great place to start). Then let your little one pick which of the two stories you'll pray through.
 3. Read the story once for each of the five senses: sight, sound, taste, feel, and smell. Each time, pretend you're in the story! You can even act it out. (If your little one is a reader, this is a good time to take turns reading out loud together!)
 4. After each reading, spend a few minutes talking about how you experienced the different senses in the midst of the story. Your little one could practice writing skills with a word or two or draw pictures.
 5. Does this story make you wonder anything about God or about Jesus? Do ahead and ask God that question! Then take 5 deep breaths to listen and think.
 6. Pray, “God, help me to remember. God, help me to love. God, help me to follow you. I love you, God. Amen.”
 - Praying the Office
 - This is prayer through liturgy – through repetition, through reading and prayer (and hymns, if you choose to include those as well).
 - 4 main benefits
 - The continuity of words and of time – praying the same service at the same time of day every day – can bring order to our busy lives
 - Using the words teaches us how to pray. It takes us through confession, praise, thanksgiving, and asking for help for ourselves and others.
 - It makes prayer possible in the hardest of times because it gives us words and structure when we feel like everything around us is topsy turvy OR times when we feel stuck in a prayer rut

- The rhythm of returning to the same prayers at the same time can bring a sense of peace, bringing us back and back and back into the presence of the God who loves us.

Adult – Prayer at the Close of the Day (Compline), from *Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press

Opening Sentences:

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

The Lord grant us a restful night and peace at the last.

Amen.

(Hymn)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, Maker of all things,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Giver of life,

Have mercy on us.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Psalm (*choose one*)

Psalm 4

Psalm 33:1-12

Psalm 34:1-10

Psalm 91:1-2, 4, 9-16

Psalm 134

Psalm 139:1-12

Psalm 23

Psalm 33:13-22

Psalm 34:11-22

Psalm 121

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Scripture reading (*choose one*)

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 6:31-34

1 John 4:18-20

John 14:27

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

1 Thessalonians 5:23

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

Revelation 22:3c-5

Romans 8:38-39

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

I lie down in peace and take my rest,

For in God alone I dwell unafraid.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Canticle:

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

Dismissal:

May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Kid adaptation – Prayer at the Close of the Day (Compline), original text by Lisa Joanne Johnson, based on *Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press

Opening Sentences:

God, come help us.

Lord, be quick to help us.

God, give us a calm night and peace at bedtime.

Amen.

(Hymn)

Prayer of Confession:

Awesome God, who made everything,

Bless us.

Jesus Christ, who forgives everyone,

Bless us.

Holy Spirit, who gives everyone life,

Bless us.

God who forgives, we've made mistakes. We've said mean things and thought unkind things. Sometimes, we've done the wrong thing, and sometimes we haven't helped people who need it. We get distracted and forget to love you. We get upset, and we don't love our family and friends like we should. We're sorry. Please forgive us. Teach us to love others and love you. Help us find joy in you and follow you. We love you, God. Amen.

Psalm (*choose one*) – same as the adult variation

Scripture reading (*choose one*) – same as the adult variation

This is God's Word.

Thank you, God!

Prayer:

I lie down in peace, ready to sleep.

God makes me feel safe and brave.

God, take care of everyone who's working tonight. Take care of everyone who's sad or scared tonight. Protect everyone who's sleeping. Heal people who are sick, Jesus. Help those who are tired to rest. Be with people who are dying. Comfort everyone who's hurting or worried. Be with everyone who's happy. We love you, God.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Canticle:

Be with us when we're awake, God, and take care of us when we're asleep. When we're awake, help us be like Jesus. When we're asleep, help us feel Jesus' peace.

Now, Lord, let your helpers go in peace. Keep your word in our hearts. I've seen the perfect love you've given to all your children. It's like a bright light that shows your awesomeness to all people.

Be with us when we're awake, God, and take care of us when we're asleep. When we're awake, help us be like Jesus. When we're asleep, help us feel Jesus' peace.

Dismissal:

May our awesome God bless, protect, and take care of us, tonight and every night.

Amen.

Thank you, God.

God's name is amazing.