

## 40 Days of Prayer Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Preparation Sunday – Prayer Changes things

*“Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray...” Luke 11:1*

#### 1. Prayer is an act of dependence upon God

*“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” John 15:5-7*

#### 2. Prayer is an act of communication with God

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7*

*“I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.” John 15:15-16*

#### 3. Prayer’s primary purpose is to enable us to commune with God

*“Answers to prayer are wonderful, but they are only secondary to the main function of prayer, which is a growing perpetual communion.” Richard Foster (Celebration of Discipline)*

*“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*

*“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” Revelation 3:20*

*“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.*

*<sup>2</sup> I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?” Psalm 42:1-2*