



Albrecht Durer – *The Praying Hands*

The Bible as It Is

The Episcopal Church of The Holy Comforter

The Practice of Prayer

A Six-Part Discussion on Prayer – Facilitated by
Tom Cooper & Neil Coghill

For many of us, prayer is probably the most essential aspect of our daily spiritual life. For others prayer is occasional as part of religious observances, ceremonies, or events. In any case, it is so common in our culture, that we take it for granted, yet, it was so unfamiliar to Jesus' disciples, that they asked him to teach them to pray. In this six-part conversation, we will discuss what prayer means in all its various aspects not only in our own culture but also in others.

Week One – Introduction to the Practice of Prayer

- How we pray.
- Why we pray.
- When and where we pray.
- What we pray for.

Week Two – The Scriptural Basis of Prayer

- Prayer in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

Week Three – Principal Kinds of Prayer – Conversation and Sharing

- Q and A on Prayer and Worship from the Catechism.
- Traditions of Christian Meditation and Contemplation and Christian Mysticism).
- Public, corporate, private, and personal prayer.
- Sharing personal stories.

Week Four – Prayer in Other Faiths

An exploration of the practice of prayer in other cultures including:

- Hindu
- Islam
- Judaism
- Native American

Week Five – Prayer in Western Culture

The role that various art forms have played in prayer including:

- Architecture
- Fine Art
- Music

Week Six – Prayer in Our Daily Lives

A revisiting of the four questions raised during the first as well as a conversation about:

- The challenges of finding (making) space for personal prayer in our rather loud and overwhelming digital world.
- Opportunities for folks who are asked to lead public prayer from time to time.
- Reflections on what we have discussed in this series.