



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 25, 2021

Beyond Imagination

By Daniel H. Wilcox

Ephesians 3:14-21

3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

3:15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

3:16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,

3:17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

3:18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

3:19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

3:20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

3:21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Imagination ignites human industry and innovation, preceding actualization of human agency and forthcoming eventuality. It transforms potentiality, possibility, and probability into proven performance. Imagination functions as existential hope for human spirit and mind, achieving what is envisaged.

Apostle Paul prays for the church at Ephesus that spiritual strength will enter their hearts and souls through a relationship with Christ Jesus. Believers can be strengthened by the indwelling of

Christ through firm faith and grounded love. This evokes comprehension of holy presence through Christ's advocacy, yielding genuine love. This love encounters full dimensions of partnership with Christ, producing unmerited righteousness and earnest obedience. Christ's presence further engenders Holy Ghost's anointing, apprehending sanctity and piety beyond expectation or request. Bliss of fellowship with God attains levels of spirituality beyond human conception. Prayer and faith enable believers to worship, witness, and work authentically for divine glory and the Kingdom.

Let us be willing to receive spiritual strength from Christ and its ecstasy beyond our imagination.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)— Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have trusted spiritual empowerment as a guiding principle? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY: Almighty God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, you being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT:

1. During the Kingdomtide season, pray with a Church School class or other small group for spiritual strength for the next seven days. Journal your experience and reflect on your spiritual journey. Do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available— See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

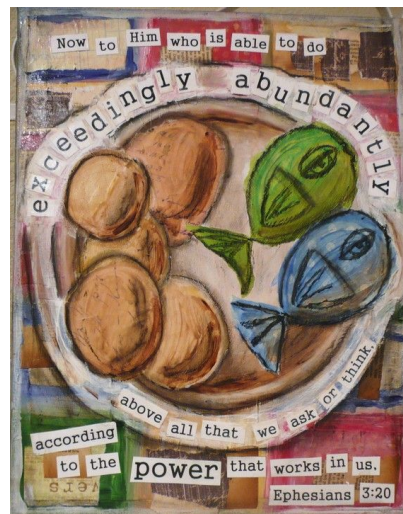
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
AMEC Hymnal, #4

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of all.
4. Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
5. O that, with yonder sacred throng,
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all,
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.