

“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” Max Lucado.

O Loving, Holy, Sovereign God, thank you for the opportunity to wake up to another day. To have the freedom to come to this place, and to be surrounded by others who love and worship you, and who love each other, even with all our frailties and quirks and idiosyncrasies. For sometimes we are an awkward people. We are sometimes feeble. As St. Paul admitted, we do what we don't want to do and we don't do what we know we should. We say things we wish we hadn't or in ways we wish we hadn't. We want to be selfless, and then we think first of our own desires and conveniences. We say we're going to forgive, and then we hold on to just that little bit of resentment. We say we're going to be committed in prayer, and then we forget, we fall asleep, we're not sure what to say, we repeat the same prayers, and we wonder if it makes a difference. But then, we are reminded that the power is in you. And that you hear us even through the cloud of our minds and voices. And we are grateful that you give us the grace to continue to pray, and to know that we are heard and loved and we can trust in your presence. And may that knowledge make us more dedicated to actually enter into our prayers with the understanding that we are talking to an awesome and mighty God, and that you deserve our attention and time and concentration. For with you we have a power that we do not have on our own. We have a purpose and meaning to our lives that goes beyond just getting through a day. We have you, and we are grateful.

Lord, we thank you for our Rummage Sale this weekend, and for all the people who participated and worked so hard. We thank you for the ways in which we worked together, the ways in which we could show the community what Christian service and fellowship are all about, and we thank you for the money we made which will help us do more, reach out more, and touch the lives of those who don't yet know you, who don't yet know the peace and comfort of having you in our lives. Thank you for blessing our efforts. And O God, there are people and situations we wish to lift up to you today. You have heard those already spoken, but there are others, and so hear us now as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.

And now, Lord, we have come together as a body of Christ, and so we pray not only for one another, but for us collectively, as a church. And so hear us as together we pray our John Wesley prayer...

*Dear Lord, we want John Wesley to be a strong and vital church in our community. And we want to be guided by your vision and plan for us. As we move into the future, please lead us all in our thoughts, our discussions, and our decisions. Show us what you would have us do and how you would have us do it. And help us always remember that John Wesley is your church, not ours – may your will be done. In Christ's name we pray. Amen*