

---

# COMMITTEE STUDY

---

**NOVEMBER**

## **Prayer**

---

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to serve you,  
and to lead a congregation for those so in need of your love and grace.  
You've called us to be a place where people can live in love,  
and where people can experience your presence.  
So be with us as we make decisions tonight.  
Help us to seek your wisdom over mere human wisdom,  
your logic over common logic,  
and your guidance over the guidance of convention and convenience.  
Help us to be your servants serving collaboratively and cooperatively,  
seeking unity of heart and mind,  
so that we can lead our church with your guidance, grace, and love. Amen

## **Henri Nouwen, et al: *Compassion***

Prayer challenges us to be fully aware of the world in which we live and to present it with all its needs and pain to God. It is this compassionate prayer that calls for compassionate action. The disciple is called to follow the Lord not only into the desert and onto the mountain to pray, but also into the valley of tears, where help is needed, and onto the cross, where humanity is in agony. Prayer and action, therefore, can never be seen as contradictory or mutually exclusive. Prayer without action grows into powerless pietism, and action without prayer degenerates into questionable manipulation. If prayer leads us into a deeper unity with the compassionate Christ, it will always give rise to concrete acts of service.



## **Discussion Questions:**

- What gets in the way of our becoming prayerfully compassionate, where we're able to look at all the world's pains and act in compassionate ways as led by God?
- How can we lead the church to both become more prayerful and compassionate in all we do?