

Daily Devotional, June 26, 2020 We Are Your Church!

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
Ephesians 3:14-18 (NIV)

A handful of years ago, there was a contemporary worship song that struck me in its message that the church's members are the actual church—the church that is exhibited through the love of Jesus that we live out in the world as a testimony to Him. The following are some of the lyrics:

"Broken world with broken dreams, this generation is on our knees, we are called to love. You hold the weary in Your hands, for Your cause Lord we will stand, we are called to love. The hopeless, the hurting, we will show them who You are. The lost you have chosen, we will show them who You are. Let our praise ring out, we will show the love of Jesus to the world for all to see...we are Yours, **we are Your church**. God is for us, who will ever stand against us, we are Yours, **we are Your church**."

Nothing could be truer for our current situation. On any given Sunday since the COVID-19 virus broke out, the church has gathered around computer screens, smart phones, and iPads. The church is lounging at home wearing PJs, gym clothes, casual dress. Dress such as jeans and tee shirts or tank tops. Most things we thought of that had to be part of Sunday worship seem to have flown out the window—except for the fact that the family of God is still gathering for worship.

The family of God is still active in caring ministry too. We wear masks and gloves to protect each other. We sanitize our homes and wash our hands in respect for one another. We contribute to food pantries and local programs and deliver food and other provisions to help those who need it most. We have a person sewing masks for the people who don't have them. We are calling people to help cheer them and spread hope among those who are lonely and need care. As the song says, "**we are Your church**," even when we have to be the church at a distance from one another.

As Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, in verse 16, he prayed for God to give the church "**power through his Spirit in your inner being**". He knew that the inner strength in each of us as individuals builds up the church. This speaks volumes to me today. Our church family is in my heart every day. The prayer list guides my daily prayers. Prayer is a significant part of what the church does. The so-called "prayer warriors" of a praying church are a powerful force in the world. Paul let the church family know he was praying for them to understand the enormous capacity and power to be found in God's love. As we find that love growing in *our* hearts, may we spread it through every means possible. **We are Your church!**

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Holy God, Loving Spirit, enter our hearts with your love and power that we may be the Church, showing Your love to the world in every way we possibly can. Amen.