

Sunday Worship

June 28, 2026

*Nursery care is available for children up to age 3
in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.*

Prelude

Ludwig van Beethoven

“Sonata in C major, Op. 3, no. 2, Allegro con brio”

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

The original church bell is rung in memory of Rosalie (1924-1994) and Michael (1948-2015) Manning, who are honored in our Memorial Garden.

Opening Prayer

First Scripture Reading (p. 961)

Jeremiah 31:34

“They will no longer need to teach each other to say, “Know the Lord!” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.”

***Hymn of Praise No. 423**

Duke Street

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where’er he reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

Time with the Children

Gathering Song: "Jesus Loves Me"

"Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so."

Children up to 3 years old may go to the Nursery (Nursery Rm)

Children 3 years old through kindergarten are excused for Bible Bunch (Bible Bunch Rm)

Children in grades 1 through 4 are excused for Primary Sunday School (Sunday School Rm)

Children in grades 5 and up are excused for God Squad (Youth Rm)

Offering

. . . *“Freely we have received, freely let us give.”*



Scan the QR code using your phone to give to First Delray online.

Offertory Anthem

arr. Renaldo Haan

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

“I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey.

I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me. When my heart is almost breaking,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me.

When my head is bowed in sorrow,

I want Jesus to walk with me.”

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.”

Ministry of the Church

“Down to the River to Pray”

“As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O sisters let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down

O sisters let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way

O brothers let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down

Come on brothers let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the star and crown? Good Lord show me the way

O fathers let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down

O fathers let’s go down, down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way

O mothers let’s go down, come on down, don’t you wanna go down?

O mothers let’s go down, down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray, studin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the star and crown? Good Lord show me the way

O sinners let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down

O sinners let’s go down, down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way"

Second Scripture Reading (p. 1272)

Luke 15:20-24

“So he got up and went to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.”

Sermon

Dr. Doug Hood

“The Fullness of Forgiveness”

***Closing Hymn No. 363**

Sojourner

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

“I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;

All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me;

When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;

When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.”

***Benediction**

Postlude

*The congregation is invited to stand, in mind or in body.

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Instructions on using our **Hearing Assistance System** to enhance your worship experience are available at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

For more information about **connecting with our church**, please complete the card in the pews.

Use your smartphone or tablet's camera to access the **QR Code** in the bulletin to make an online donation to the church.

The **flowers** that beautify the Chancel this morning are given by children and families, in loving memory of Howard and Ruth Smith.

Our **liturgist** this morning is Madison Roach.

Today's **Fellowship by the Sea** is hosted by the Deacons. Come outside the lobby doors, enjoy a bite, and say hello after worship.

Today is our **Pennies from Heaven Offering**. Since September 2012, we have raised \$87,599.51 to help feed hungry people in our community.

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Sign your name and become part of the legacy of First Delray Beach. Visit the lobby to add your name to the **memory book** for our **100th Anniversary Time Capsule**.

What will your legacy be? Please remember the church in your will and beneficiary donations and become a **Legacy Partner**. Contact Colleen O'Rourke, Finance Manager, (colleen@firstdelray.com) for more information.

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As of June 23rd, we have raised \$3,902,761.32 for our **Renew & Rejoice Capital Campaign**. More information is available in the lobby or on our Capital Campaign page on our website, where you can view completed and ongoing projects, watch the campaign video, and learn how you can help us renew our church facilities.

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Summer Craft Sale at Holly House. Today, following worship, celebrate summer and get ready for the 250th anniversary of Independence Day with beautiful patriotic and seasonal décor featuring holiday table runners, placemats, and aprons. There are also summer decorations with shell art, wreaths, and floral décor. Holly House is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon**.

The Deacons invite you to a **Summer Picnic** on **Sunday, July 26th** following worship. This fellowship event is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to connect, share a meal, and enjoy time together. Please bring your favorite picnic dish to share with others. Reservations are encouraged to help with planning and may be made at the Welcome Center in the Lobby, on the website under upcoming events, or by calling the church office.

Stop by the Welcome Center to purchase **First Delray Concert Series tickets for the final concert of the 2026 concert season: “Lights, Camera, Music!”** on Sunday, **October 25th** at 4 p.m. [\$20 each].

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Our **Stephen Ministers** listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times. If you or a loved one needs a Stephen Minister, contact Laura DeBrita, Stephen Minister Coordinator, at 954-591-0439.

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Nursery Care for children up to age 3 is available in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Bible Bunch for Children, ages 3 through kindergarten, meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Bible Bunch Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Primary Sunday School for Children in 1st through 4th grade meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Sunday School Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

God Squad for 5th grade and up meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Youth Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

The **Youth Group** is on summer break, but has several activities planned over the next several months. Contact Rachel Therrell (racheltherrell@firstdelray.com) for more information.

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study meets Monday mornings at **10 a.m.** via Zoom. Contact Maria Graham (mmg2352@gmail.com) for more information.

Hosts Dolores McNaboe and Kathy Wilsher invite you to **Women's Lunch by the Sea at noon** on the **second Tuesday** of the month at Boheme Bistro. Contact Kathy Wilsher (561-252-0709) with any questions. The next lunch is on **Tuesday, July 14th**.

The **Holly House Workshops** meet on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** at 9:30 a.m. in the Holly House.

Men's Fellowship meets **Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m.** at The Original Pancake House (1840 S. Federal Hwy) for a warm breakfast, meaningful conversation, and fellowship. Contact Fred McNaboe (561-350-4294) for more information.

Women's Discipleship Group next meets on **Thursday, June 25th, at 10 a.m.** in the Meeting Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies. Contact Pamela Kent-Balasco (561-414-7552) for more information.

First Delray Ringers meets on **Thursdays at 6 p.m.** in the Bell Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

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Read Dr. Doug Hood's weekly **Nurture Faith** meditation on our website under Resources.

Visit our website (www.firstdelray.com) for more information about our ministries.

N U R T U R E
F A I T H
with
Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

*The following meditation was written by Dr. Michael B. Brown,
pastor of Blowing Rock Methodist Church in North Carolina.*

A Mother's Arms

READ: Luke 13:34b (Common English Bible)

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often I have wanted to gather your people
just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.”*

REFLECT:

My first bicycle was a red Schwinn. No gears. No hand brakes. But it was a thing of beauty to a little boy on his seventh birthday. Our family lived in a house with a long driveway going downhill to the street below. Across the street was an undeveloped piece of property, separated from the road by a deep ditch.

I had learned to ride a bike (or, so I thought) by pedaling around on one that belonged to my cousin. His parents restricted us to their driveway, which was paved and flat. In that safe confinement, you couldn't build up much speed, nor did you have trouble applying the brakes. When my parents gave me the new Schwinn, it could just as well have been a Lamborghini to me. It was the most beautiful vehicle I had ever seen. As I hopped on, my dad told me to stay on the flat area of the driveway next to

the house. But, where's the adventure in that? I was a competent cyclist, a master of the two-wheeled beauty. So, ignoring wise advice, I turned and headed down the hill toward the street below. That's when I realized that braking on a flat surface at a slow speed was an entirely different thing than braking on a steep decline at an accelerated speed. It was many years ago, but I still remember the mix of adrenaline and fear as I rocketed toward the street below, wondering why the brakes didn't seem to be having much effect. Thank God there happened to be no traffic!

Off the driveway I went, into and across the street, and then airborne for just a moment until my new bike and I came to an inglorious halt in the ditch on the other side of the road. My parents had come running behind me. Dad lifted the bicycle from the ditch while mom lifted me. Neither the bike nor the rider suffered any serious injury. I was more embarrassed than harmed. I do remember that the scolding I expected did not occur. Instead, my mother lifted me into her arms and held me as I cried. I was safe. Forgiven. Loved. She gathered me into her love "just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."

Jesus used that maternal language to describe the emotions he felt for Jerusalem and all that it symbolized. He was a rabbi. He knew that the Holy City was a living and visible reminder of the life and history of Israel. Somehow, within it lived the whole story of "God's chosen people"¹, its journeys and trials, its previous exiles into foreign lands and its current

¹ References to the theme of the selection of Israel and of the New Testament Church for a special and intimate relationship with God can be found in Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9

occupation by a foreign captor, the legacies of its kings and prophets, its poetry of faith contained in the Psalms, its sincere but often failed efforts to honor the Law of Moses, its hopes and dreams and sorrows and tears. Jesus loved that history, he loved those people, as a mother does who gathers her child into her arms and sympathizes and comforts.

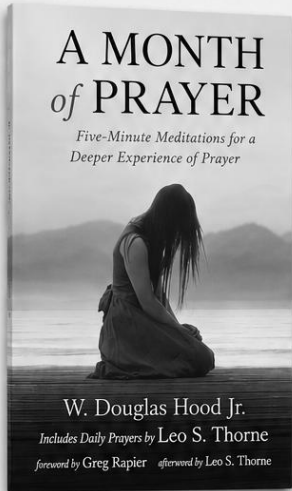
All of life's surfaces are not smooth, flat, and easy to navigate. There are downhill slopes that we feel incapable of traversing. Frightening experiences or alarming crises occur, increasing in speed and intensity, and we have no brakes to slow them down. Sometimes, like the victim in The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), we find ourselves feeling bruised, bleeding, and beaten in one of life's ditches. It is then, Jesus promised, that he comes to us, that he is with us, that he gives us strength not our own to survive the moment, and that, like a loving parent, he holds us close until the pain has passed. *Kyrie Eleison*, we pray. "Lord have mercy." And he gathers us into his healing arms.

RESPOND:

1. How has this scripture or meditation spoken to you? **Pray:** *"What would you have me hear, O Lord?"*
2. What one specific act do you intend to take, an attitude to change, a person to see, or prayer to pray? **Pray:** *"What would you have me do, O Lord?"*

Spiritual Resources

*Simple practices. Deeper connection.
Stronger spirit.*



A MONTH of PRAYER

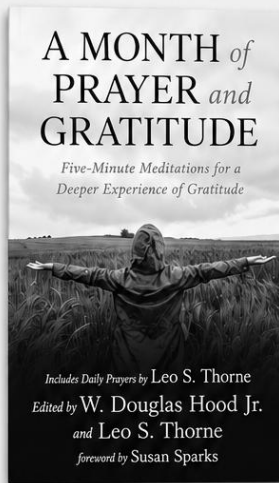
Five-Minute Meditations for a Deeper Experience of Prayer

W. Douglas Hood Jr.
Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Greg Rapiet afterword by Leo S. Thorne

PRAYER

Five-minute meditations for a deeper experience of prayer.

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\$5



A MONTH of PRAYER and GRATITUDE

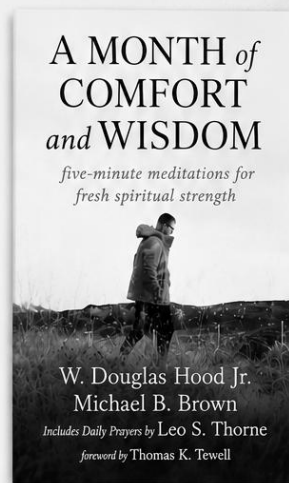
Five-Minute Meditations for a Deeper Experience of Gratitude

Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
Edited by W. Douglas Hood Jr. and Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Susan Sparks

PRAYER & GRATITUDE

Five-minute meditations for a deeper experience of gratitude.

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\$10



A MONTH of COMFORT and WISDOM

five-minute meditations for fresh spiritual strength

W. Douglas Hood Jr.
Michael B. Brown
Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Thomas K. Tewell

COMFORT & WISDOM

five-minute meditations for fresh spiritual strength.

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\$10



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