

From Christ Presbyterian's 7/4th bulletin: This Sunday we will be exploring the metaphor of a tandem bicycle as it applies to our life of faith and discipleship. Jesus rides along with us. But where is God sitting on that bicycle built for two? You may have seen the bumper sticker "God is My Co-pilot." The idea is that God has influence on the driver's life but it is telling to reflect on the relationship between pilot and co-pilot. Who is really in charge and what does the answer to that question say about our theology of discipleship and the character of our faith? As we contemplate these questions, I offer you the following prayer by Joan Eichhorn as encouragement. ~ Pastor Susan

Pedal Prayer By Joan Eichhorn Heavenly Father, Trusting you can be difficult at times whether it be riding a tandem bike or just living day to day. Trusting that you hear our prayers when we are struggling can be un-nerving when nothing seems to be happening. However, we know it is better to remember to have patience and courage, and to wait upon our Lord because you know what is best for us. So, please help us to remember to "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING BUT IN ALL WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT. (Proverbs 3:5-6) In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

So Ride as if there is no tomorrow and if you grow weary, tired or start to lose your F.A.I.T.H. (For An Instant Trust Him) listen for that word of assurance: "PEDAL" P.E.D.A.L. = Pray Every Day And Live

From Worship:

Call to worship-

One- The Road is long

All – the road is long

One- with many a winding turn

that leads us to who knows where,

All –who knows where

One – But Christ is strong,

All- strong enough to carry us.

One – We ain't heavy

All – Christ's our brother.

Prayer for wholeness-

Dear Jesus, life's road is quite a ride! Sometimes I sail along effortlessly as if coasting downhill. The landscape rises before me blessing me with its contours. Other times the going gets rough – hairpin turns make me feel like I might wipe out, I worry that I'll never crest the steep and exhausting hills. Sometimes I have to just admit I'm lost and lonely and scared of what the next mile will bring. Ride with me Jesus. Give me balance and strength and companions for the journey.

The #s refer to the ?'s that follow ...

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer,
my judge,
keeping track of the things I did wrong,
so as to know whether I merited heaven
or hell when I die.
He was out there sort of like a president.
I recognized His picture when I saw it,
but I really didn't know Him.

But later on
when I met Christ,
it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride,
but it was a tandem bike,
and I noticed that Christ
was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was
that He suggested we change places,
but life has not been the same since.(?#1)

When I had control,
I knew the way.
It was rather boring,
but predictable . . .
It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead,
He knew delightful long cuts,
up mountains,
and through rocky places
at breakneck speeds,
it was all I could do to hang on!
Even though it looked like madness,
He said, "Pedal!" (?#2)

I worried and was anxious
and asked,
"Where are you taking me?"
He laughed and didn't answer,
and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life
and entered into the adventure.

And when I'd say, "I'm scared,"
He'd lean back and touch my hand. (?#3,4)

He took me to people with gifts that I needed,
gifts of healing,
acceptance
and joy.
They gave me gifts to take on my journey,
my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again. (?#5)
He said, "Give the gifts away;
they're extra baggage, too much weight."
So I did,
to the people we met,
and I found that in giving I received,
and still our burden was light. (?#6)

I did not trust Him,
at first,
in control of my life.
I thought He'd wreck it;
but He knows bike secrets,
knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners,
knows how to jump to clear high rocks,
knows how to fly to shorten scary passages. (?#7,8)

And I am learning to shut up
and pedal
in the strangest places,
and I'm beginning to enjoy the view
and the cool breeze on my face
with my delightful constant companion, Jesus
Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore,
He just smiles and says . . . **"Pedal"** (?#9, 10, 11, 12)



-- author unknown

Copied from Holy Sweat by Tim Hansel (which by the way is
an excellent book).

Questions to ask yourself...on next page

1. Where is Jesus riding on your bicycle built for two?
2. What does the madness look/feel like when God takes the lead in your life?
3. Where has God taken you without sufficient answers to your questions?
4. How does God comfort you when you are scared?
5. What blessings have you picked up on your journey with Christ?
6. What has Christ asked you to give away? Were you able to let go?
7. What surprising, wondrous moves has Christ made in your life?
8. Has Christ “wrecked” anything in your life? If so, can you still trust Christ?
9. In what areas of your life have you learned to “shut up and pedal”?
10. What does “pedaling” look/feel like to you?
11. What are the features/hazards of the terrain that Jesus is asking you to “pedal” through?
12. What actions might be required to trust God and keep pedaling?

Hymn of Understanding- I want Jesus to *Ride With Me* (tune 363)

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

Uphill and downhill, Lord, ride with me. Uphill and downhill, Lord, ride with me.
 When my legs are tired and heavy, Lord, I want Jesus to ride with me.

When I am cruising, Lord, ride with me. When I am cruising, Lord, ride with me.
 When life just can't get any better, Lord, I want Jesus to ride with me.

Guide my journey, Lord, ride with me. Guide my journey, Lord, ride with me.
 I'll be pedaling right behind you, Lord, I want Jesus to ride with me.

Hymn of Response – to the tune of a **Bicycle Built for Two**; words by Pastor Susan Joseph Rack

Christians, Christians, give me your answer do.
 I'm half crazy all for the love of you.
 No need to fret and meddle, just pedal, pedal, pedal,
 and we'll ride sweet, upon the seat of a bicycle built for two.

Sisters, brothers, give me your trust so true.
 With me guiding, there's nothing we can't do.
 We'll travel all together through calm and stormy weather.
 We'll all ride sweet upon the seats of my bicycle built for you.

Fellow bikers, follow our Savior true.
 There is nothing Christ hasn't done for you.
 The hills and valleys try us.
 With strength God will supply us.
 We can't be beat firm on the seat of God's bicycle built for you.