

**BICENTENNIAL PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND
(1820–2020)**

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

Father of lights [James 1:17],
the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel [Philippians 1:12]
across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries,
strengthening our Church
from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.
Grant that the nearness of your Son [4:5] may dispel the darkness of our sins,
so that as our love increases more and more [1:9],
we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word [1:14].
Holding fast to the word of life,
may we shine like stars in the world [2:15–16].
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

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[New American Bible]

“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the *Father of lights*”
(James 1:17)

“I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to *advance the gospel*”
(Philippians 1:12)

“The Lord is *near*” (4:5)

“That your *love may increase more and more*” (1:9)

“So that the majority of brothers of the brothers... *dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly*” (1:14)

“*Shine like stars in the world as you hold fast to the word of life*” (2:15–16)