

CULTIVATING GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

PRAYER GUIDE

FALL 2021



Christ CHURCH

ChristChurchpca.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRAYER GUIDE

For our eight days of prayer, we will be using this prayer guide. It starts on Sunday, October 10 and goes through the next Sunday, October 17. The first Sunday will be a day to prepare our hearts, to ask God for humble and clean hearts, hearts devoted to prayer. Then Monday through Sunday, we will be praying for our church leadership and the ministries of our church.

For each day, there is a short paragraph to read and then a Scriptural sample prayer to pray. The prayer is included to guide us as we pray and to help us to pray in unity to our Father who sees us and hears our prayers.

Tiece King, in her prayer guide, wrote that written prayers, “are meant to be prayed from your heart, not read with your mind, to be read slowly, and to be interacted with.” With these ideas in mind, take your time to read the prayer and then pray it back to God, using your own words, if you desire. Use the prayer guide to direct your prayers.

Following the sample prayer are the Scripture references used to shape each prayer. The references are listed if you would like to look these up for yourself in order to pray, using these verses directly.

An important question to ask at this point could be, “Why are we using Scripture-based prayers for our week of prayer?”

Alvin VanderGriend answers this way,

“God’s promises, commands, and self-revelations are imbedded in the Scriptures. They are infallible and reliable. When our prayers are shaped by His Word, we are building on solid ground. We are responding to who God is and what He is doing. We are claiming His promises. We are obeying His commands. There is no better way to pray.”

As we pray using Scriptures, our hearts become more aligned with His heart and what He longs to do in us and through us. We pray according to His will which is what He desires. Use these prayers to guide you as you pray for yourself and as you intercede on behalf of our church.

Please join us for this time of prayer.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

A DAY TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

For this first day of our eight days of prayer, let's prepare our hearts, by humbling ourselves before God, turning away for any attitudes of pride and independence. We will ask Him for hearts that are dependent on Him. May He lead us as we pray so that we pray in agreement with all He wants to do in Christ Church.

You are the Lord. We acknowledge You as Holy. We praise you that You are Sovereign and are the ruler of all things. With these truths in mind, we humble ourselves before You. Work in us contrite spirits and humble hearts, broken over our sin. As we read Your Word, may we tremble before You, with a desire to reverence and value Your Word. Create in us clean and pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. You have instructed us to be devoted to prayer, so we ask that You give us hearts that are diligently occupied with prayer. Thank you for all You desire to do this week as we pray in unity. Thank you for Your promise that Your Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we do not know what to pray. Pour out a spirit of prayer on Christ Church.

Refer to These Scriptures

Leviticus 22:32, 1 Chronicles 29:12, 1 Peter 5:6, Isaiah 66:2, Psalm 51:10, Colossians 4:2, Romans 8:26, Zechariah 12:10

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

CULTIVATING GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

Praying for Pastors and Elders

As we pray for our church leadership, we are responding to the call to prayer which is in 1 Thessalonians 5:25. It says, “Brothers, pray for us.” It is so important that we, as a congregation, pray for our church leadership on a consistent basis.

Let these quotes encourage you to pray for the leadership at Christ Church:

“There is no greater gift you can give your pastors and the spiritual leaders of your church than to pray for them.” (30 Days Praying for Your Pastor Challenge, Revive Our Hearts)

“Spiritual leaders need prayer support. There is a great need today for all believers to lift up their pastors and other spiritual leaders in faithful, fervent intercessory prayer.” (*Praying God’s Heart*, Alvin VanderGriend)

Today, we will pray for our pastors and elders and then on Sunday, we will pray for our deacons. May the Lord give us hearts to pray often for the leadership of our church.

Lord, You are ruler over all,

We give thanks to You for our pastors. We strive together on their behalf, asking You for spiritual protection for each of them and their families, for fruitful ministries, that all of their service would be acceptable to the saints. We also ask for personal joy for them as they serve as pastors and that they would have times of refreshment and rest. Let Your favor rest upon our pastors and establish the work of their hands, making their efforts successful as they serve You and Christ Church.

Thank you for the elders. Cause them to lead with zeal and diligence. Because these men are servants of Christ, teach them to rule well as they direct the affairs of our church. As the shepherding elders focus on shepherding and discipleship, may they willingly lead the flock, shepherding with God’s own heart in order to feed us with knowledge and understanding. As the governing elders focus on vision and policy, fill them with the knowledge of Your Word in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

As the pastors and elders speak the Word of God to us, prepare us, the congregation, to imitate their faith. We submit to their leadership, recognizing and accepting their authority over us as they keep watch over our souls. We desire to make their work a joy, not a burden.

Refer to These Scriptures

Romans 15:30–32 Psalm 90:17, Romans 12:18, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Peter 5:1–2, Jeremiah 3:15, Colossians 1:9, Hebrews 13:7 & 17

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

BELONG TO GOSPEL COMMUNITY

Praying for K-Groups, and Men's and Women's Ministries

We have been called to belong to Jesus Christ as well as to one another, to love and serve one another. Each of us belongs to all the others and, as a result, we are brothers and sisters in Christ with God as our Heavenly Father.

Abba, Father,

One way we can become connected to our Gospel Community is by joining a K group, Men's group or Women's group. As we join a group, cause us to walk in love, having a love toward all the saints. We ask for Your work in us, so that our souls would be purified by our obedience to the truth in order that we would love one another earnestly from a pure heart. As we gather together in these groups, teach us to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. We do not want to neglect to meet together, but continue to encourage one another, and through love, serve one another.

Refer to These Scriptures

2 John 5:6, 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 5:13

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

BELONG TO GOSPEL COMMUNITY, GROW IN GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

Praying for the Children's Ministry and the Youth Ministry

Good Shepherd,

We ask that You bless the children and the youth of Christ Church. We ask that Jesus Christ would be formed in them, that they would be taught by You, and that their peace would be great. Guide them so that they would grow up in every way into Christ and that each of them would grow, become strong, be filled with wisdom, with Your favor upon them. You desire all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, so we ask that You would save the children and youth of our church, that they would come to repentance and put their faith in Christ.

For the youth, work in them the good work of Gospel Transformation. Break up the unplowed ground of their hearts so that they will be ready to receive Your Word to them. Continue Your work as You transform them by renewing their minds and changing them to reflect Your glory more and more. Keep them walking in the truth.

We pray for those who serve in these vital ministries. May these volunteers serve You with great humility, doing all with Your help. We thank you for their work of faith and their labor of love to the children and youth. We ask for more volunteers, ready to love and serve.

Refer to These Scriptures

Numbers 6:24, Galatians 4:19, Isaiah 54:13, Ephesians 4:15, Luke 2:40, 1 Timothy 2:14, Galatians 2:16, Hosea 10:12, James 1:21, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, 3 John 1:4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

GROW IN GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

Praying for the Music Ministry

The desire of the leaders of the music ministry is “to offer praise to God through congregational singing, assisted by instrumentalists, choirs, and soloists.” There are many people who give of their time and talent to enhance our worship services. Children add their voices by singing in choirs as well. May all continue to have a heart for worship as they serve in this ministry.

Our Strength and our Song,

Help all who serve in the music ministry to sing and make melody with all their being, with all their hearts and souls. Bless them so that they may sing praises to You among the nations, praising you because Your steadfast love is great about the heavens and Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Lead them to sing with gladness of heart as they praise You, to raise songs of joy. Give them hearts that worship You in spirit and in truth.

As we all worship together during our Sunday morning services, keep our hearts close to You, so that we will not be far from You. Help us to focus on You, and not become distracted. We want to sing to You and ascribe to You, Lord, the glory due Your name.

Refer to These Scriptures

Psalm 108:1-4, Isaiah 30:29, 1 Chronicles 15:16, John 4: 23-24, Matthew 15:8, 1 Chronicles 16:29

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

GROW IN GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

Praying for Foundation Hour Teachers, Library, Church Staff

We will be praying for all the Foundation Hours teachers which includes teachers for the children, youth, college, and adults. We will also be praying for those who volunteer to take care of our library and for all the church employees.

You are the Teacher that comes from God,

For all who teach during the Foundation Hour, help them to teach with all wisdom so that they may present all of us mature in Christ. Use these men and women to teach us Your ways, that we may know You more fully. As we attend the Foundation Hour classes, may we be teachable and receive the Word with all eagerness. We ask for hearts that understand and acquire the knowledge being taught. Give us ears that hear and receive the teachings.

For all who serve in the library, we ask that they would continue to give themselves fully to the work of the Lord, abounding in this good work. May we be blessed by finding wisdom and gaining understanding, as we read the books in our church library.

As the church staff do their work here at Christ Church, give them sincere hearts that desire to do Your will, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord. Make them strong in the Lord and in the strength of Your might as they serve our church. Encourage their hearts, strengthening them in every good work and word.

Refer to These Scriptures

Colossians 1:28, Exodus 33:13, Acts 17:11, Proverbs 18:15, Matthew 13:15, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Proverbs 3:13, Ephesians 6:5-7, 10, 2 Thessalonians 2:16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

GIVE IN GOSPEL MISSION

Praying for Our Deacons

Compassionate and Gracious God,

We thank you for the men who serve as deacons at Christ Church. Fill them with Your Spirit as they extend compassion and mercy to those in need, by giving financial support and other types of assistance. Guide them as they maintain the grounds and buildings throughout our church campus. May our deacons be men worthy of respect, with sincerity, keeping hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. Let their love abound more and more for all who attend our church, with knowledge and all discernment, so that they may approve what is excellent, being pure and blameless, filled with the fruit of righteousness.

Refer to These Scriptures

Acts 6:3, 1 Timothy 3:8-9, Philippians 1:9-11

We will also pray for the college ministries of Cru and Campus Outreach:

Father, these ministries desire to reach the lost at local college campuses, so we ask You to open doors for them so that they can declare the mystery of Christ to the students. We also ask that each staff member would speak in such a way that they make the Word clear, speaking Your Word with boldness, grace, and compassion. Draw many of these college students to Yourself. Prepare the students to be ready to hear the Gospel proclaimed and then to respond by confessing with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believing in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead, so that they will be saved.

Refer to These Scriptures

Colossians 4:3, Acts 4:29, Romans 10:9

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

GIVE IN GOSPEL MISSIONS

Praying for the Remaining Ministries

- McLean County Nursing Home Ministry
- Host Ministry
- Sonshine Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- International and Local Missions Team
- Moving Ministry
- Audio/Visual Team

There are many opportunities to serve in our church so that we can use our spiritual gifts and time for His glory. We are to be willing, humble, joyful, and helpful servants as we serve in these different ministries. Let us be faithful in all that God has called us to do.

Servant of the Lord,

You came not to be served, but to serve many. We follow Your example and desire to serve others, for we are God's fellow workers. Your Word tells us to offer ourselves to You, first, and then to offer ourselves to our Church. In response, we willingly offer ourselves to serve, with great humility, to do this with the strength that You supply in order that in everything, You may be glorified through Jesus Christ. We ask that more people be available to assist in these ministries, devoting themselves to the service of the saints.

Refer to These Scriptures

Matthew 20:28, Romans 12:1-8, John 12:26, 1 Corinthians 3:9, Judges 5:2, Acts 20:19, 1 Peter 4:11, 1 Corinthians 16:15, Colossians 4:3, Acts 4:29, Romans 10:9

We thank you for these eight days of prayer. We ask for Your continued work in our hearts and in our church. We ask for the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit to bring revival. Prepare us for revival by giving us hearts that pray and seek Your face with a desperate hunger and thirst for You, and You alone. Help us to remember that "the goal is not revival for revival's sake, but the goal is to always seek You, the Great Reviver," knowing that "revival is all about Your glory in our church!"

Quotes from Mark Partin's book, *Praying with Fire*

FOR PARENTS: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHILDREN'S PRAYER GUIDE

This week of prayer is an intergenerational time of prayer and so includes all ages from the youngest child to the oldest saint. We are inviting the children of Christ Church to take their place “alongside adults as co-laborers with Christ” and to learn to become intercessors for others. We are asking them to pray each day for themselves and also for all of us at Christ Church. Our prayer for them is that they, too, along with the adults, would grow in devotion to prayer.

For each day this week, the adult prayer guide includes a paragraph to read and a sample prayer, each day having a different theme. For the children's guide, the theme covered each day is the same as the adult's guide, but there are only prayer points listed for each day. We did this because we know that each child is at his or her own level as far as their desire to pray and understanding of what to pray. Only prayer points are given, so that you can change the wording as would be best for your child. The prayer points are worded for your child to first pray for himself, but please feel free to then change the wording in the prayer so that your child is praying for all of us as well, if your child is able to do that. A suggestion to include a younger child who is just learning to pray would be for you to pray a short sentence that your child can repeat after you.

As you begin this week, help your child to understand that prayer is not just about asking God for what we want and expecting Him to give it, though He does invite us to come to Him with all our needs. Prayer is also asking God for His will to be done. Using this prayer guide, we are asking for His will to be done in our church—to transform our hearts so that we will belong, grow and give.

To encourage you as your child prays this week, we will include a quote from Alvin VanderGriend,

“Always remember that children's prayers are real prayers. Children who pray are not practicing so they will know how to pray when they grow up. They are talking to God. Their prayers are heard by the Father in heaven as expressions of love. Their prayers, simple as they may seem to us, make a difference in the world. God's Spirit is helping them to pray.”

May your child grow in prayer.

FALL CHILDREN'S PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday—Prepare my heart

Praise: Jesus is Lord.

Ask God: Help me to humble myself before You, agreeing that I need You every day. Help me to desire to pray more.

Monday—Pray for our pastors and elders

Praise: God is ruler over all

Ask God: To protect our pastors and elders and give them joy as they serve

Tuesday—Pray for our Gospel community groups

Praise: God is a good Father to us

Ask God: To give us a love for other people

Wednesday—Pray for the children and youth

Praise: God is a good shepherd

Ask God: That the children and youth would put their faith in Christ and be saved

Thursday—Pray for our music ministry

Praise: God is our strength and our song

Ask God: To keep our hearts close to You as we sing to You during our church services

Friday—Pray for the Foundation Hour teachers

Praise: Jesus is the Teacher that comes from God

Ask God: That the teachers will have wisdom as they teach us

Saturday—Pray for our deacons

Praise: God is compassionate and full of grace to us

Ask God: To give the deacons wisdom and compassion as they help others

Sunday—Pray for the people who serve in the church ministries

Praise: Jesus is the servant of the Lord

Ask God: To teach us how to serve others and help others