

SPRING 2022 PRAYER GUIDE

JESUS

The Servant



Christ CHURCH

ChristChurchpca.org

INTRODUCTION

Last year, during the sermon series on the Psalms, Pastor Bob preached on Psalm 146, focusing in on our solid confidence that God will execute justice for the oppressed (Psalm 146:7). He mentioned that while Christ Church may be known for a theology of grace, we have not been known for a theology of justice. He reminded us what God requires of us is to do justice, as stated in Micah 6:8: “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Pastor Bob said that even though we live in an unjust society, we are to care for those in need. He ended with the thought that because of the Cross, justice is so essential that God will never bypass it. Jesus took the wrath that we deserve in order to humble us and to give us a heart to join in on his purposes for our community and people all around us. With a vision for the future of our church, Pastor Bob said that when the new multipurpose room is completed, this will open up opportunities for ministry to our neighbors right here.

So we must ask ourselves: Are we ready? Are we willing to serve? For in order to serve others and care for them, we will need a heart of a servant. Where else can we go to learn about a servant’s heart, except to our Lord Jesus? Because Jesus has a perfect servant’s heart, we will look at some of the times when he displayed his heart to serve. Each day this week, we will see in examples in Scripture of Christ’s way in which he served: humbly, willingly, obediently, faithfully, joyfully, and compassionately. We will follow the ACTS model of prayer. Each day, we will adore him for who he is, confess the ways in which we are not following his example of servanthood, thank him for what he did, and ask him for his help so that we will follow him in his ways as we serve others.

As we pray through the prayer guide, we will need to remember that good works and serving others do not save us. Warren Wiersbe said, “We are not saved by faith plus works: we are saved by a faith that leads us to works.” We are also not trying to gain God’s favor by serving. We do not think, “that what makes us right with God are works of charity, generosity, and tolerance.”¹ We know that what makes us right with God is the shed blood of Jesus. So as we pray this week, we will ask God to give us willing hearts that want to serve, and that we also will take the next step to obey and serve. In all of this, we are not trying to gain God’s acceptance through these good works. We want to serve out of love and gratitude for his work: that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). That is our motivation to serve!

May God answer our prayers as we ask for hearts to serve.

¹ Chapel, Bryan. *Holiness by Grace*. Crossway Books, Wheaton IL. 2001. 115.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

JESUS, THE HUMBLE SERVANT

In John 13, Jesus is teaching his disciples about humility and then demonstrating to them what it looks like. In an act of humility, he laid aside his outer garments. He took a towel and a basin filled with water, and began to wash his disciples' feet. When he had finished washing, he then wiped their feet with the towel. This task was usually done by the lowest of the servants in the household. Yet, Jesus lowered himself, willing to do whatever task the Father had prepared for him to do.

Adoration

Jesus, you are the Holy Servant. Our eyes are fixed on you, for you are the humble servant that the Father upholds, the chosen one in whom the Father delights. We praise you for being gentle and humble in heart. There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might.

Confession of Sin

You call each of us to wash one another's feet—to serve others. Yet, we are not always eager to serve. At times, we are arrogant and proud. We want others to serve us. We withhold and refrain from serving others. We hold back when we should be moving closer to others in order to help meet their needs. Forgive us, O Lord.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Thank you for emptying yourself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. We thank you that you came not to be served, but to serve. You are our perfect example of humility.

In light of these truths, we humble ourselves before you. We ask for your work in us, so that we would not think of ourselves more highly than we should. We turn away from pride and arrogance, and instead, we clothe ourselves with humility in order that you may increase and we would decrease. We are your servants and we have come to do your will. Give us hearts that turn away from idols, so that we serve you, the living and true God. We will then be ready and eager to serve one another.

Scripture References

Acts 4:29-30; Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 10:45, 11:29; Jeremiah 10:6; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Romans 12:3; John 3:30; Psalm 116:16; Hebrews 10:9; 1 Peter 5:2 (NIV); 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Galatians 5:13

MONDAY, APRIL 25

JESUS, THE WILLING SERVANT

Before Jesus was betrayed and arrested, he spent some time praying to the Father. He knew that suffering was ahead of him. He asked his Father for this suffering to pass from him. But, then, in total submission to the Father's plan, Jesus exemplified a willing servant by praying, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:36–39).

Adoration

Son of God, you obeyed your Father's will perfectly, without reluctance or grumbling. You were not forced or guilted into doing all that the Father had told you to do. You were willing. You readily yielded and submitted to the Father's will. You delighted to do as the Father had commanded.

Confession of Sin

We agree with this truth: we do not always deny ourselves and follow you, Jesus. In fact, many times, we want our will to be done. Like a young child demanding his own way, we, too often, want our own way. We can be a stiff-necked people who refuse to listen to you. We sometimes refuse to respond to your discipline. And we resist your Holy Spirit's work in our hearts.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Thank you that you came to do the Father's will. We are grateful that you finished the Father's work. Teach us to do your will, for you are our God! As we learn from you, may we do your will from our hearts. We ask that our spirits would be willing to do all the work that you have for us to do. Train each of us to complete our assigned tasks. Help us to be open to serve our church body and others. You have blessed us in so many ways, so we desire to be a blessing to others.

Scripture References

Romans 1:4; Psalm 40:8, 51:10, 143:10; Exodus 32:9; Jeremiah 32:33; Acts 7:51; Hebrews 10:7; John 4:34; Ephesians 6:6; Mark 13:34 (NIV); Genesis 12:2

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

JESUS, THE OBEDIENT SERVANT

Jesus is our perfect example of an obedient son. He tells us in John 8:29 that he always does the things that are pleasing to the Father. In John 14:31, Jesus reminds us that he did as the Father commanded him, so that the world would know that he loves the Father. He said that he kept his Father's commandments and abided in his love. His obedience was an outpouring of his love for the Father.

Adoration

You are the obedient son. We praise you that you became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. And although you were a son, you learned obedience through what you suffered. We bless you that you were made perfect, and so became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey you, and by your obedience, many are made righteous.

Confession of Sin

Lord, forgive us for the times when we are disobedient and rebellious, forsaking you. There are moments when we call you Lord, but do not do what you tell us to do. We do not always obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Thank you that you always do the things that are pleasing to your Father. We acknowledge that you came down from heaven, not to do your own will, but to do the will of him who sent you. We are so thankful. And we love you, Lord Jesus. Grace our hearts with a desire to keep your commandments. We are to trust and obey. We are to live a life of obedience. Help us to live this life, we cry out to you for your work in us. We ask for ears to hear your words and then keep them. Cause us to become obedient children, that we would not be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance. Remind us often that we are to obey you rather than men.

Scripture References

Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8-9; Romans 5:19; Luke 6:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; John 8:29, 14:15, 6:38; Luke 11:28; Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 1:14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

JESUS, THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

In Matthew 24:45, Jesus tells the parable of the faithful and wise servant. This servant was dedicated to completing the tasks that his master has assigned him. Jesus said that this servant will be blessed because he will be found by his master doing the work that the master had given him to do.

Adoration

Faithful Creator, you served no other gods, but the one true God. We praise you that you served the Father. You are the one who has promised and you are faithful to all your promises. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Great is your faithfulness.

Confession of Sin

We confess that at times, we are not wise and faithful servants. We become distracted, half-hearted, self-centered. We can be unfruitful and neglect our work. And then, because of our unfaithfulness, our way becomes hard.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

You left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded you. For that and so much more, we give you thanks. We thank you that you remain faithful even when we are faithless, because you cannot deny yourself. Thank you that you will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus, you told us to have faith in God. We respond to your words by asking, "Increase our faith!" Then let us move on from a place of faith by allowing our faith to express itself through love, for you tell us that if our faith does not have works, it is dead. We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

Scripture References

Matthew 24:42, 4:10; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 145:13, 57:9 (NIV); Lamentations 3:23; Proverbs 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:13; Joshua 11:15; Mark 11:22; Luke 17:5; Galatians 5:6 (NIV); James 2:17; Ephesians 2:10

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

JESUS, THE LOVING SERVANT

Jesus lived a life of love. He told us, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” He then demonstrated that great love when, as he hung on the cross, he said, “It is finished,” and then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Because of God’s love for us, we also ought to love one another. We are to love in deed, with our actions, by the things we do. Let’s practice real love (John 15:13, 19:30, 15:12; 1 John 3:18).

Adoration

Beloved Son, we praise you and adore you because you are the Savior of the world and the atoning sacrifice for our sins. You are the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world! You loved us and gave yourself up for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Confession of Sin

We will not conceal our sin, but we will bring it out into the open. We confess that, often, we do not love well. We can be impatient and unkind to those around us. We can be arrogant and rude, irritable and resentful. We keep record of wrongs and we insist on our own way. So we turn from our sin and forsake it. Thank you that we will then find your mercy.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Your love never ends; it never fails. It is steadfast, immovable, unchangeable, faithful. Your steadfast love endures forever. Thank you that while we were still sinners, you died for us, showing us the Father’s love. Help us to love one another earnestly from a pure heart, so that we will increasingly love our neighbor as ourselves. Cause our love to increase, abound, and overflow to others. Let all that we do be done in love.

Scripture References

Matthew 3:17, 22:39; John 1:29, 4:42; 1 John 2:2 (NIV); Ephesians 5:2; Proverbs 28:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 16:14; Psalm 136:1, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 Thessalonians 3:12

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

JESUS, THE JOYFUL SERVANT

In our way of thinking, joy and obedience do not fit together. It is easy for us to think that if we obey God, we will not have joy. But, Jesus perfectly brought these two concepts together, when he said in John 15, “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” We learn from his words and his life that keeping his commandments is not a burden, rather, it brings great joy to our hearts.

Adoration

You are our exceeding joy, for we know that in your presence is fullness of joy. We take joy in you, the God of our salvation. We will then shout for joy in you, Lord, and in the shadow of your wings, we will sing for joy.

Confession of Sin

We acknowledge our guilt before you, for we do not always serve with joyfulness and gladness of heart. Some days, we serve out of duty. Other days, we serve with grumbling and complaining in our hearts. Create in us clean hearts so that we will obey you and serve others with joy.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Thank you that as we obey you, your joy is in us, and our joy is made full. We are thankful that you are able to present us blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy. Give us hearts that serve you with gladness. Keep our joy from growing dark, even with all the hard things going on in our world. We ask for fresh joy from the Lord, so that the joy of the Lord may be our strength.

Scripture References

Psalm 16:11, 33:1, 43:4, 63:7, 100:1-2; Habakkuk 2:19; Jeremiah 3:13; Deuteronomy 28:47; Philippians 2:12; John 15:11; Isaiah 24:11, 29:19; Nehemiah 8:10

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

JESUS, THE COMPASSIONATE SERVANT

In Matthew 20:29–34, we find the story of two men who were blind, sitting by a road. As Jesus passed by them, these men cried out for mercy. Jesus did not dismiss their needs or their cries. He stopped and asked them what they wanted. They wanted their eyes to be opened. He had compassion on them, so he healed them.

Adoration

Compassionate and merciful God, because of the abundance of your steadfast love, you have compassion on us. Because of your compassion, you abundantly pardon us. You also tread our iniquities underfoot and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Confession of Sin

Forgive us for the times when we have acted like the priest and Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan, who, upon seeing a man who was hurt and lying by the side of the road, did not stop and help, but passed by on the other side and offered no help. We, at times, have neglected mercy and can be selfish with our time and our resources.

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Before you saved us, we were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Thank you that you have a heart of compassion for us. Remind us that we are to put on compassionate hearts. We are to have compassion for those in prison, and for the poor, the widows, and the orphans. Give us hearts like the Samaritan, who was moved with compassion for the man who was hurt. This Samaritan saw him, stopped, and cared for him. Help us to see those around us who are in need, whether they are someone in our church or someone in our neighborhood.

May we pray consistently, “Is there anyone to whom I can show kindness today, for Jesus’ sake?”

Scripture References

James 5:11, Isaiah 55:7, Lamentations 3:32, Micah 7:19, Luke 10:31–32, Matthew 9:36, Colossians 3:12, Hebrews 10:34, 2 Samuel 9:1

Father, thank you for these days of prayer for our church. Guide us into lives of justice, that we will help to deliver the poor who cry for help, and the fatherless who have none to help them, that we would cause the widow's heart to sing, that we would be eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, and a father to the needy. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear of opportunities to serve so that Christ's love will be on display through us. Challenge us, O Lord, to find new ways to serve in our church and in our community.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Job 29:12-16

SPRING CHILDREN'S PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday

Praise Jesus: that he is a humble servant

Ask Jesus: help me be a humble servant, and not proud

Monday

Praise Jesus: that he is a willing servant—he was ready to do whatever the Father wanted him to do

Ask Jesus: help me do whatever I need to do

Tuesday

Praise Jesus: that he is an obedient servant—he submitted and did what the Father wanted

Ask Jesus: help me to say, “Yes,” and then do what I need to do

Wednesday

Praise Jesus: that he is a faithful servant—he left nothing undone

Ask Jesus: help me to finish all the work that I have to do

Thursday

Praise Jesus: that he is a loving servant—he loved others and wanted to help them

Ask Jesus: help me to love others and want to help them

Friday

Praise Jesus: that he is a joyful servant—he did his work with joy

Ask Jesus: help me to have a happy heart as I do my work

Saturday

Praise Jesus: that he is a compassionate servant—he cared for people who were having a hard time

Ask Jesus: help me to have compassion for others, to see people who need help