

SPRING 2024 PRAYER GUIDE

Praying
FOR OUR CHURCH



CHRIST
CHURCH

Introduction

For our week of prayer, we will be using this prayer guide. It starts Sunday, April 14 and finishes Saturday, April 20. For each day, there is a sample prayer. The prayer is included to guide us as we pray, and to help us to pray in unity. Following the sample prayer are Scripture references used to shape each prayer. The references are listed to assist you if you would prefer to use Scripture as you pray this week.

Prepare Our Hearts

Before the week begins, please take a few moments to prepare your heart for the prayer week. Ask God to give you a humble heart, to give you the time each day to devote to praying through the week, and a desire to turn away from any attitudes of pride and sin.

Let's pray:

Sovereign Lord, you rule over all and are a great and awesome God. Our response to your greatness is to humble ourselves before you. You have instructed us to be devoted to prayer, so we ask you to guide us to the time each day when we are to pray for our church. Work in us a desire to turn from our wicked ways. Create in us clean and pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Pour out a spirit of prayer on us.

For Parents

This week is an intergenerational time of prayer and so all ages—from the youngest child to the oldest saint—are included. We invite the children of Christ Church to take their place “alongside adults as co-laborers with Christ” and learn to become intercessors for others.

Each day will include a short sample prayer for your child. Please encourage your child to join us in praying this week. To encourage you as your child prays, we include some insight about a child's prayers:

“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. Their prayers, simple as they may seem to us, make a difference in the world. God's Spirit is helping them to pray.” —Alvin VanderGriend

May your child grow in prayer this week.

Children's Prayer

Praise: Jesus is Lord.

Ask God: Help me to humble myself and pray every day.

Scripture References: 1 Chronicles 29:12, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 51:10, Zechariah 12:10, 1 Peter 5:6

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

PSALM 51:10–12



SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Our Pastors and Elders

When we think of praying for our leaders, it would be good to remember what Charles Spurgeon said, “No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me.” Our pastors appreciate knowing that out of our kindness and concern, we are praying for them. As we pray for our church leadership, we are responding to the call to pray in 1 Thessalonians 5:25 which says, “Brothers, pray for us.” It is crucial that we, as a congregation, pray for our pastors and elders.

Lord and King over all the Earth, 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, and 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 be upon them, 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 discipleship and shepherding, may they willingly lead the flock. Help them to guide us 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 the congregation, prepare each of us to imitate their faith. We submit to their leadership, recognizing and accepting their authority over us as they watch over our souls. We desire to make their work a joy, not a burden.

Children’s Prayer

Praise: God is ruler over all.

Ask God: Protect our pastors and elders and give them joy as they serve.

Scripture References: Psalm 90:17; Jeremiah 3:15; Zechariah 14:9; Romans 12:8, 15:30–32; Colossians 1:9; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1–2

Our Deacons and Staff

We will continue to intercede for the leadership today as we pray for our deacons. They care for those in need by showing mercy, and they care for our buildings and grounds by overseeing the needed upkeep and repair of them. They serve in other ways as well, following the example of our faithful servant, the Lord Jesus. We also will pray for the church employees as they serve our church in their various roles.

Compassionate and gracious God, we thank you for the men who serve as deacons at Christ Church. Fill them with your spirit and with wisdom 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, holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. Let their love abound more and more for all who attend our church. Give them knowledge and discernment, so that they may approve what is excellent. Let them be pure and blameless and filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

We thank you also for the church staff. Father God, you know that they perform so many vital jobs for our church to keep it running smoothly. Thank you that they serve with faithfulness and perseverance. We pray that as they do their work, you would bless them and give them sincere hearts which desire to do your will from their hearts. Make them strong in the Lord and in the strength of your might as they serve. Encourage their hearts, strengthening them in every good work and word.

In your omniscience, you are aware that much of the work of the deacons and church staff is hidden and behind-the-scenes. The rest of us may not realize all they do. Give us hearts of thankfulness for their work and for their willingness to do all the work that you have for them. Thank you that you see all their effort and that each one, as they do good, will receive back from the Lord.

Children's Prayer

Praise: Jesus is a servant.

Ask God: Help our deacons and staff as they serve.

Scripture References: Acts 6:3, Ephesians 6:5–8, Philippians 1: 9–11, 2 Thessalonians 2:17, 1 Timothy 3:8–9

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Belong Ministries—kGroups, Young Adults, CCY

How do we live out our mission of cultivating gospel transformation? One way is to belong to a gospel community. We are encouraged to join a small group or a Bible Study where we will find unity in the message of the gospel.

Abba Father, cause all the kGroup members to have a love toward all the saints, and grow in closer fellowship in their small group. We ask for your work in us, so that our souls would be purified by our obedience to the truth. Help us to love one another earnestly from a pure heart. As we gather together in these groups, teach us what it means to stir up one another to love and good works. We do not want to neglect to meet together, but continue to encourage and serve one another.

We thank you for those involved in the Young Adult group. Thank you that they enjoy spending time together in church-sponsored events. Thank you for their desire to learn more of Christ. Lead them as they take their membership vows, as they join kGroups, as they serve in ministries. May their love for Jesus and for their brothers and sisters in Christ continue to grow. Teach them to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ.

For CCY, we ask that you would draw each one to yourself. For those who have called on your name and are saved, let them draw near to you for a closer walk with you. For those who have not yet called to you, let them know that you love them and they too can be saved through faith. We pray that each one would know that you have a purpose for them for each one was created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Let their hearts rest in the fact that they belong to you, to this church, and to the family of God. We thank you for those who serve as adult leaders in this vital ministry. May each volunteer serve with great humility, doing all with your help and guidance.

Children's Prayer

Praise: God is a good father.

Ask God: Help CCY students put their faith in Christ and be saved, and grow in their love for him.

Scripture References: Mark 8:34; Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8, 10; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 John 5

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Belong Ministries—Host Teams, Men’s Softball Team, Campus Outreach

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for our Host Team as they greet us and visitors every Sunday morning. We thank you for the men’s softball team as they build community each time they play a game of softball. And we appreciate our women’s hospitality team as they serve to grow a sense of belonging in our church. May each of these teams experience and encourage meaningful fellowship and community.

We thank you for the Belong Team who work to bring the people of our church together, in order to grow community in church-wide events. Bless them and lead them as they continue to plan and work towards the goal of bringing more events to our church this year.

The Campus Outreach staff 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 pray that each staff member would speak in such a way to make the Word clear, speaking your Word with boldness, grace, and compassion. Draw many students to yourself. Prepare their hearts so that when they hear the gospel proclaimed, they will 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.

Children’s Prayer

Praise: God is love.

Ask God: Help us love one another.

Scripture References: John 6:44, Acts 4:29, Romans 10:9; Colossians 4:3

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Grow Ministries—Bible Studies, Foundations, Spiritual Formation, Soul Care, Music Ministry

Another way we live out our church's mission is to grow in gospel transformation. We can join learning opportunities such as Bible studies, spiritual formation groups, and Foundations classes that will teach us more of the gospel. Soul Care training is offered to teach willing people ways in which to counsel those in need in order to bring God's healing from deep wounds, God's freedom from evil's captivity, and gospel transformation through repentance and faith. Our music ministry's goal is to offer praise to God through congregational singing, assisted by instrumentalists and vocalists.

Our good teacher, for all who teach Foundations classes, Bible studies, Spiritual Formation classes, and Soul Care training, 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 these 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.

Our strength and our song, lead all who serve in the music ministry to sing and make melody with all their being, with all their hearts and souls. Lead them to sing with gladness of heart as they praise you, to raise songs of joy to you. Thank you for those who serve on the AV team. May their work be blessed as they operate the audio/visual equipment.

As we worship together during our Sunday morning service, give us hearts that worship you in spirit and truth. Keep us focused on you and not allow ourselves to become distracted. We want to sing to you and ascribe to you, Lord, the glory due your name.

Children's Prayer

Praise: Jesus is our teacher, strength, and song.

Ask God: Help all of us learn at church and to sing with glad hearts to God.

Scripture References: Exodus 33:13; 1 Chronicles 15:16, 16:29; Psalm 108:1; Proverbs 18:15; Isaiah 30:29; Matthew 13:15; John 4:24; Acts 17:11; Colossians 1:28

Grow Ministries—Children’s Ministries

While children attend children’s church, they learn to worship God. While they attend Sunday School classes, they grow in knowledge about God and his Word because of a more in-depth Bible study. We can pray for the children that, whatever their age, they would come to know more about God and his ways, and know him better. For the infants and youngest children who are in the nursery, may they know that they are always cared for and loved by their Heavenly Father and by all who volunteer in our nursery.

Good Shepherd, we ask that you bless and keep the children of Christ Church, and give them your peace. May Jesus Christ be formed in them. Let them be taught by you, and we pray that their peace would be great. Guide them so that they would grow up in every way into Christ. We ask that they would grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man. You desire all to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, so we ask that you would save the children of our church, that they would turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

We pray for those who serve in the children’s ministries. We thank you for their work of faith and their labor of love to the children. We ask for more volunteers, ready to love and serve.

Children’s Prayer

Praise: God is a good shepherd.

Ask God: Bring all the children to have faith in Jesus and be saved.

Scripture References: Numbers 6:24, 1 Samuel 2:26, Isaiah 54:13, Acts 20:21, Galatians 4:19, Ephesians 4:15, 1 Timothy 2:3–4

Give Ministries

When we belong to a gospel community and grow in gospel transformation, then we will desire to give in gospel missions! A servant's attitude will overflow from our hearts as we follow Jesus' example of serving. We will give out of our spiritual gifts and our resources, which includes giving of our time to help others. God calls us to be willing, humble, joyful, and helpful servants as we serve in different ministries. Let us be faithful in all that God has called us to do. Below are just some of the ways to serve in our church:

- Soul Care Ministry (lay counseling)
- Missions
- Moving Ministry
- Sonshine Ministry
- Angel Tree
- Prayer Team
- Funeral Team
- Library Team

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 first to you, and then to our church. With humility, we respond to you by willingly offering ourselves to serve. We do this with the strength that you supply, in order that, in everything, you may be glorified through Jesus Christ. We ask for more people to be available to assist in these ministries, devoting themselves to the service of the saints.

Children's Prayer

Praise: Jesus is the servant of the Lord.

Ask God: Teach us how to serve and help others.

Scripture References: Judges 5:2; Matthew 20:28; John 12:26; Acts 20:19; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16:15; 1 Peter 4:11

Father, thank you for this week 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. Give us hearts that pray and seek your face with a desperate hunger and thirst for you, and you alone. Help us 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!

Amen





1301 N. Linden Street, Normal, Illinois 61761
Christchurchpca.org