

# DECEMBER 2020

# PRAYER

# GUIDE

**“I will always pray as if this one thing is true: God is for us. And it’s worthwhile to keep knocking. That’s all I know about faith for sure.” Sarah Bessey**

## **1 SEATTLE-BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, USA**

Lord, we thank you for sending David Borum to shepherd our congregation. Fill him with a sense of your presence and a heart for the community. Reveal to the congregation how they can support and encourage him in his new role.

## **2 GCI-AUSTRALASIA**

We are grateful for a time of celebrating the goodness of God through our Ladies Linkup via Zoom. It was wonderful to connect with our sisters all around Australia, including New Zealand and Fiji. May the peace of Christ guard the hearts and minds of the group as they continue to minister in their local contexts.



## **3 COLLEGE PARK, FLORIDA, USA**

Our members had a wonderful time helping decorate our downtown for the holiday season. Please pray with us that the light and love of Jesus be made known throughout our neighborhood.

## **4 BICOL, PHILIPPINES**

Many areas of the Philippines are being affected by typhoons. A category 5 typhoon recently caused a lot of damage in the Bicol area. Let us lift up our brothers and sisters, as well as the local residents, who were affected. May our gracious and compassionate God bring redemption.

## **5 GCI-HONDURAS**

Please join us in praying for our members and the population of Honduras. Two hurricanes have brought major flooding and damage to the area. May our God of grace continue to be merciful and provide a way to restoration.

## **6 ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, you entered into the wilderness of our world. Prepare our hearts to receive the salvation you have for us this Advent season. Help us to hear your word and call clearly so that we may walk in your ways.

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## 7 MEDITATION MONDAY

Ephesians 2:14 - Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus Christ would come as a baby and would be called the Prince of Peace. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, who humbly entered into his creation as a human baby to illuminate and reveal the God of peace. Are we listening to God with ears that are open to peace? Are we listening for the peace of reconciliation between us and them, between us and God? The peace that surpasses all understanding, that comes through Him who is our peace? The Holy Spirit shows us the places in our hearts where hatred hides in the shadows. Jesus, please remove any feelings of hostility that seek to divide us. Abba Father, we rest in your loving embrace with open ears to listen to your words of peace and reconciliation in order that we may truly become one with each other.

## 8 LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA, USA

Everlasting God, we thank you for the gifts that you give us. We lift up to you Anne Stapleton as she steps into the role of fulltime pastor. Provide her with all she needs to answer the call you placed upon her life.

## 9 CINCINNATI (WEST), OHIO, USA

Creator God, we thank you for how you draw us into community. We celebrate connecting with our neighbors through our annual pumpkin patch. It was different, but still a great opportunity to build relationships. Continue to provide creative ways for us to deepen our relationships with you, our neighbors, and one another.

## 10 WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON, USA

It is such a joy to glorify God with the talents he has given us. We have resumed our "Oh SEW Happy" Quilters. This sewing circle ministry produces prayer and comfort quilts for those in need. May all our creations be a physical representation of God with and among us.

## 11 HARVEY, ILLINOIS, USA

Jesus, we thank you for the new life we have in you. Thank you for the depth of your love and character, that we are on an eternal journey of growing in understanding of who you are. We celebrate the completion of the first rounds of Discipleship Classes with all individuals being highly engaged and motivated, and we pray for new revelation and participates when we resume.

## 12 ALBAY, PHILIPPINES

Members of our congregation gathered supplies and a group went to Hobo, Minalabac, to provide typhoon relief for church and community members. All families who received their gifts were reminded that the "Spirit" of love and compassion that made it possible is far more important than the physical gifts itself. Join us in praying for continued mercy and provision for those affected.

## 13 ADVENT PRAYER

Sovereign God, you are abundant in love and provide all we need. During this season, help us to believe in your goodness toward us personally. Give us courage to open ourselves to the grace you are offering to us as we place our trust in you.

## 14 MEDITATION MONDAY

1 Corinthians 13:8 - Stop and take a moment to taste the sweet love of God that is continuously fixated on you. God's love is unfailing and unending. It is a love like no other because God's love is one being, made up of three distinct persons who all desire that you experience their generous, divine affection. You cannot run from God's love. Love is all around you, constantly seeking you out. God's love will never die, disappear, or become obsolete. His love lasts forever. Love will never stop loving you. No force, circumstance, or action can ever stop God's love. It is unstoppable! God's love is everlasting, ceaseless, and never-ending. He cannot run out of love for you; it is impossible! The only thing you can do is fall deeper and deeper into God's unconditional love. Take a deep breath and let the full weight of God's love drop into every part of your being. You. Are. Loved.

## 15 WASHINGTON, D.C., USA

Gracious God, in perfect assurance of Your presence among us, we pray your blessings upon Juanita Carlisle-Pollard as we celebrate her ordination. As she serves, may she honor you as she joyfully joins with you in the ministry you prepared for her.

## 16 BIG SANDY, TEXAS, USA

Our Love Avenue team conducted a "Drive-thru Trunk or Treat" event for our community on Halloween. Seventy-five prize bags were safely "launched" into cars and children's bags through our treat cannon as they drove through our church parking lot. It was a joyful, fun event for the families and children who came through and also the church members who participated!

## 17 COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA

In October, our Love Avenue team held their first activity since being established. We planned a trash clean-up and school supply box giveaway in our immediate neighborhood as a way to show love to our neighbors and not violate safety concerns due to COVID-19. Teams of two or three people went throughout the neighborhood, cleaning up trash and handing out the school supply boxes to adults with children at home. We did not go door-to-door, but approached people who were out in their yards, as it was a beautiful fall day.



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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

## 18 HELENA, MONTANA, USA

We gave away another 6,000+ food boxes in the community via the Farmers to Families food box program. We partnered with 5 other churches, 4 different daycares, a dozen or so community non-profits. All participants came to the church to get boxes of food. May the love Christ be evident to all and spark a desire to enter into relationship with him.

## 19 PRAYER OF COMFORT

This year was filled with loss on many levels. Jesus, you felt the pains of loneliness while here on earth. Draw near to those who are missing a loved one or are feeling alone this Christmas. Wrap your loving arms around them and fill them with your presence.

## 20 ADVENT PRAYER

Jesus, our Savior, we long for your coming. Your promise of light is giving us hope. Protect us and our families. Lead us through the darkness to the joy we find in you.

## 21 MEDITATION MONDAY

Luke 1:47-47 - The Greek word for joy here is “agalliaó.” It means becoming so glad that one jumps in celebration. Mary was so elated when she shared her news with Elizabeth that she could not contain her excitement and leapt with joy in celebration. Wow, that’s some pretty powerful joy! Do you think Mary ever had a moment of doubt? A second to wonder what had she actually signed up for? What about when Joseph wanted a quiet divorce? How about when accusers began their public allegations of unfaithfulness by calling Mary horrible, ugly names? Mary probably had periods of fear, but I imagine that through it all she was able to maintain her joy and celebrate the miracle within. Joy is not happiness times two. Joy is its own unique substance. It is the by-product of the indwelling presence of God and the mutual “yes” that we share with God. Let God celebrate you today. Imagine his glorious, beaming smile washing over you and filling you with light, love, and laughter.

## 22 MIRAMAR, FLORIDA, USA

After months of gathering virtually, we desired a safe way to connect with our members in person. We organized a family drive-by for members to connect. It was a joyous time for all!

## 23 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, USA

Our congregation had a fun-filled time packing gift-filled shoeboxes to be sent to children in need in many parts of the world. We were able to complete 63 boxes.

## 24 CHRISTMAS PRAYER DURING COVID-19

Jesus, as we celebrate you entering our world, we cling to the truth that we are never alone in you. We pray for those who are unable to celebrate with loved ones this year. Draw them close to you. We pray for creative ways to safely connect with one another and for wisdom in how to love one another well.

## 25 CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

## 26 COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA

We are grateful for our youth ministry. Our leaders put together over twenty packages and delivered them to our youth. We pray that they see God’s hand and feel his love in the day to day details of their lives, especially during these unusual times.

## 27 GRACE COMMUNION MINISTRY TEAMS

Gracious God, it is a joy to join in your ministry. We thank you for all the volunteers who have answered your call to serve in GCI congregations. We ask that you sustain them and may they experience your love in meaningful ways. We pray for fresh starts after a year of many new challenges. Fill your people anew with energy and passion for your name.

## 28 MEDITATION MONDAY

John 20:31- When the angel came to Mary, he told her that she would have a son, whom she was to name Jesus. When Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was, Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” The name “Jesus Christ” is a familiar name found in the New Testament, and some might be surprised to learn that “Christ” is not actually Jesus’ last name, but his title, which means “the Anointed One.” Jesus Christ is the incarnate, eternal Son of God, the divine Messiah, and second person of the holy Trinity. God’s plan from before the foundations of the world was for the Eternal Son of the Father to become one with human life, bringing humanity into the circle of the fellowship that is Father, Son, and Spirit. Through the Incarnation, the Fall was undone and humanity was “born again” in Christ Jesus. Lord, teach us who we really are and how to fully participate in the abundant life that you so generously share with us.

## 29 CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA

Grace Communion Cleveland partnered with Cleveland City Mission to help collect coats for men, women, and children, with a focus on those housed at Laura’s Home Women’s Crisis Center. Members asked family and friends to check their closets for winter coats that were no longer being worn but still in good condition. Twenty-eight coats were collected for homeless and transitioning women, men, and children. We are reminded that even one can make a difference.

## 30 GCI CHURCHES

Gracious God, we pray for a vibrant missional heartbeat to permeate GCI congregations. We are blessed, so help us to be a blessing to the world.

## 31 NEW YEAR’S PRAYER

We thank you, God, that you go before us and make a way for us. Bring hope alive in our hearts and renew our spirits as we start this new year. We ask that you light the way forward, revealing what you have for us. Give us manna from heaven and mercies anew as we pursue your purposes.