

40 Days of Prayer—Lent 2020

Welcome to 40 Days of Prayer!

We are so glad you have picked up this booklet. Our prayer is that this brief guide will help our entire congregation to pray with greater intensity and unity.

We believe God wants us to pray so that as His church we may more fully glorify Him. We long to see God move powerfully as we consecrate our lives to Him. We want God the Holy Spirit to work powerfully through us as a body of believers.

The 40 Days of Prayer begins Sunday, March 1, 2020, the first Sunday in Lent. During March the day of the month will match the number in the prayer guide (March 1 is #1, March 2 is #2, and so on).

Please use this booklet in private prayer and when you pray with others. Whether around the dinner table or in a small group, you can join together anytime with anyone who would pray with you. If you are a parent, we encourage you to pray together with your children in your home. A daily mealtime would be a great way to pray with consistency.

The prayers are arranged around our 7 values. Feel free to pray for more than one prayer point on any one day. And feel free to let this just be the springboard to more ideas in prayer. The sky is the limit!

Our hope is that the specific directions for prayer will fuel united and concerted prayer to the glory of God!

Soli Deo Gloria

Glory to God Alone

Value One—Freedom

We are freed from guilt, shame and performance by the good news of Jesus Christ. Our covenant relationship with Him gives us the identity and security we need to receive and give grace and truth. (John 8:36; Galatians 5:1)

1. Pray that you and all of God's people would experience freedom from sin as we repent and are cleansed

- *Take a minute to consider what sins are preventing you from drawing close to God.*
- **James 4:7-10** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Pray that you (and others in the church) will know assurance of our salvation in Christ

- **Colossians 4:12** Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, [he is] always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
- **Ephesians 1:11-14** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to [His] purpose... **12** so that we ... might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

3. That we would forgive as we have been forgiven

- *Do you have pain from your past? Broken relationships? Have you forgiven everyone of everything they did that hurt you?*
- *Pause and reflect right now. Ask God to help you forgive, and then speak that forgiveness out loud, "Lord, I forgive _____ for _____. Heal my heart in Jesus name."*
- **Matthew 18:21-22** Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

4. That we would resist temptation and the devil, so that we can walk in freedom in Christ

- *We have been freed from sin, and are given power to flee from sin through the Holy Spirit.*
- *Pray that God will grant you awareness to keep from giving into temptation.*
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

5. That we would abide in Christ, knowing that our position in Christ is not in us, but because of him

- *Jesus invites us to focus on his provision by grace, not our performance by works. Abide in him. Thank him for his promises in salvation and his presence by the Holy Spirit.*
- **John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Value Two—Family

We are an extended family loving one another in diversity and through adversity because we have been adopted by God the Father. We are committed to adopting new members into this growing family. (John 1:9-13; Mark 3:35; Romans 8:14-17; 1 John 3:1)

6. That we would be a healthy, growing church!

- *Health and growth are closely related. Healthy things grow!*
- **2 Thessalonians 1:3** We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

7. For unity in the body of Christ at Grace Covenant

- *Pray that our church would be unified in prayer, in passion, and in purpose.*
- **Psalm 133:1** Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

8. For healing for sick, injured, or in pain, and for emotional healing for those who feel brokenness or grief

- *There are lots of people with needs, pray for the individuals you know who are struggling at this time.*
- **Psalm 34:18-19** The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- **Galatians 6:2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

That God would continue to bless our church with wise and godly leaders (staff, elders and deacons)

9. Pray for our Staff

- *Pastor Tim Brown, Mission Jim Caldwell, Suzie Alesius, Brigitte Beattie, Bridget Lamancusa, Seth Udinski and Chris Wright*
- *Pray that God would continue to grant a growing spirit of joy and teamwork among the staff, fruitfulness in ministry, and special protection over their families.*

10. Pray for our Elders

- *Steve Graves, Tom Johnson, Elaine Kindl, Scott Feather, Debi Fell, Tod Gilmore, Roger Carlson, Andrew Hunter and Dave Johnson*
- *That God would protect them spiritually, guide them as leaders, granting the Session unity and clarity.*
- **Titus 1:7-9** For an elder, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8** but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

11. Pray for our Deacons

- *Alan Alesius, Sue Graves, Debbie Whiting, Heather Carlson, Lindsay Mitchell, Bill Palmer Bob & Kathy Stewart, and Betty Walsh*
- *Pray for their ministry to our flock, to know and meet the needs of our people as they serve in various capacities.*
- **1 Timothy 3:8** Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. **9** They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

12. That God would give us a clear, compelling and supernatural vision for our whole church

- *We are not yet 8 years old. God is still forming and shaping our church and its vision. Pray that God would grant to us a view of what our future should be.*
- **Habakkuk 2:2** And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.”

Value Three—Worship

We respond to God’s grace and glory by exalting Him in joyful and passionate worship. (Psalm 22:27, 29:2; 96:1-6; 100:1-4; John 4:23-24, Ephesians 5:18-21)

13. That we would see God more clearly as we worship Him

- **Isaiah 6:1-3** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
- *Our God is Holy, holy, holy. He is completely other. Consider the vastness of His being.*
 - *Infinite—there is no end to him*
 - *Eternal—he has always existed*
 - *Everlasting—he will always exist*
 - *Righteous—he always does what is right*
 - *Loving—he gives himself sacrificially and is faithful*
- *Choose an attribute of God to focus on right now. Meditate on that reality and how it is amazing and comforting.*

14. That the glory of God would be our burning passion

- **Philippians 2:9-11** God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- **1 Chronicles 29:11** Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

15. For revival to sweep through our churches and our land in our generation

- **Isaiah 64:1-8** Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. **5** You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

16. That our worship would be glorious and compelling

- **Psalm 66:2** Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!
- *Pray that our congregation would grow in its delight to sing out God's praises in song and to raise our voices in sweet unity.*
- *Pray for Chris Wright as he leads our worship ministry.*

17. That we would be fervent in prayer

- **Ephesians 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
- *Prayer is commanded. It is prioritized by the apostles. Even prayer itself can be a prayer request! Ask God to pour out a new desire and urgency to depend upon him in prayer.*

Value Four—Discipleship

We take personal responsibility to grow as Christians following Jesus together in everyday life. We build each other up and seek to become more and more like Jesus Christ in our whole person by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 3:12-16; Hebrews 10:24-25, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

18. That the people of our congregation would be spiritually strong

- **Ephesians 3:16-18** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

19. That we would draw near to Christ personally

- **Philippians 3:7-10** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

20. That we might seek God with all our heart

- **Isaiah 55:6** Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.
- **Psalms 34:9-10** Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! **10** The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- *Seeking God is not always easy. It requires time to quiet our own spirit and begin to listen. He is in the still small voice. But in seeking him there is great reward. Take time right now to pause and simply quiet yourself. If thoughts rise, either write them down for later, or use it to become a fresh prayer.*

21. For effective assimilation, that new people would be welcomed and feel cherished

- **Acts 18:27-28** And when [Apollos] wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, **28** for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.
- *Pray that everyone at Grace Covenant would feel they belong and connected in fellowship and ministry.*

22. That we would continually welcome new worshipers and new members helping them discover how they fit into discipleship and mission within our church

- **1 Peter 4:9-11** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

23. That God would use relationships and teaching in classes and groups to help us grow.

- **Acts 2:42-43** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Value Five—Mission

We obey the leading of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate and declare Christ's love to our neighbors and networks. We seek to use our time, skills, and resources wisely to extend the reach of the gospel locally and globally. As ambassadors of the kingdom, we believe that all that we do in everyday life is a means to promote human flourishing. (Matthew 28:18-20; Philemon 1:6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 10:27; Acts 16:6-15)

24. That we would be active in sharing our faith

- **Philemon 1:6** I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.
- **1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

25. For our THRIVE (our youth ministry) and Grace Kids (our children's ministry) to flourish

- **Matthew 19:14** Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
- **1 Timothy 4:12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
- *Pray for Seth (THRIVE) and Bridget (Grace Kids) as they lead and coordinate these ministries and their volunteers.*

26. That God would multiply our resources to provide blessing to all

- **Mark 6:41-44** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And they all ate and were satisfied. **43** And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

27. That God would strengthen all those whom we support in mission partnership

- **Philippians 1:3-5** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
- *Fellow Partners: Amar, Antonucci, Brown, Caldwell, Chantel, Drotta, Kim, Kravtsev, Madera, Mitchell, Shearer, Thrash*

28. That God would open new doors to bless and reach more people

- **Colossians 4:3** And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.
- *Pray for open doors in Collegium Charter School, Oaklands Corporate Center and Exton*

29. That God would add to our numbers through salvation to Christ

- **Acts 2:46-47** They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

30. For unsaved family and friends

- **Lamentations 2:19** Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children [and loved ones].
- **Matt. 7:7-8** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

31. That God would use us to reach our county

- **Jonah 4:11** (God said to Jonah) "Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"
- *The population of Chester County is over half a million people...and growing!*

Value Six—Historic Biblical Faith

We believe that the Bible is the supreme and final authority for faith and practice. Anchored in the truth of the scripture, we agree with the great Creeds and claim our heritage in the Reformed Tradition. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 15)

32. That we would grow wise for salvation, mature in Christ and equipped for good works

- **2 Timothy 3:14-17** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

33. That we would hold fast to the gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
- *Pray for Pastor Tim that he will continue to declare God's Word faithfully and boldly by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

34. That we would value the simple act of reading God's Word

- **Psalm 19:7-11** The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; **8** the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; **9** the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. **10** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. **11** Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Value Seven—Home and Hospitality

Our homes are a strategic sphere where faith is applied practically, where parents disciple children, and where hospitality is practiced, inviting others to freedom and family at our tables. (Psalm 127-128; Romans 12:13)

35. Pray for families of our church

- *Pray for children—for formation unto godly character*
- *Pray for youth—for them to grow in the truth of God's Word and the grace of the gospel*
- *Pray for parents—for wisdom and grace*
- **Psalm 145:4-7** One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

36. That we would live out the reality of the gospel in our relationships and homes

- **Psalm 127:1-5** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. **5** Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.
- **Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- **Romans 12:13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

37. Pray for empty-nesters, seniors, singles and widows

- **Psalm 37:25-26** I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. **26** He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

38. For people who are currently living in Exton, Downingtown, West Chester and Coatesville who don't know the Lord

- **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- *Pray for the community nearest you. Pray that the word of Christ may go forth with boldness and be received as the good news that it is!*

39. Pray for the new people moving into newly built apartments in Exton and surrounding area, that they would come to know the Lord and walk with Him in fellowship with a local church

- **Acts 17:26-27** From one man [the Lord] made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **27** God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (NIV84)

40. Pray for those who will be joining us in worship on Easter Sunday

- *Ask the Lord to cause new people to seek out our church and join us for worship, discipleship and mission.*
- *For a glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection together on Easter Sunday.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- **Revelation 1:17-18** Fear not, I am the first and the last, **18** and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

*Thanks for praying with us! Please keep this booklet as a guide throughout 2020 to keep asking, seeking, and knocking!
(Matthew 7:7)*