



24/7 PRAYER GUIDE

CrossPoint Alliance Church

August 27–September 3, 2020

*"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,
because your faith is proclaimed in all the world."*

Romans 1v8

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LISTENING/SILENT PRAYER

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46v10

Silence is a practice in prayer that counteracts the rampant hurry and habitual busyness of western life. Pausing, being still, and practicing silence opens our minds and hearts to the voice of God. Our world is increasingly becoming one loud echo chamber, and the fear that accompanies silence for many people reveals the brokenness within our culture and ourselves.

Jesus lived out rhythms of silence and solitude with the Father (Luke 4v42). His own life challenges us to actively turn down the volume in our lives in order to practice being with Jesus, in an interpersonal relationship with him.

“God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.” — Mother Teresa

Silent Prayer Exercises:

Stop talking || Just sit in silence. Begin by separating your identity purely from what you do or how you present yourself.

Be silent || Don't run from the emptiness or emotions that begin to arise. Ask God to gently help you process these as you wait upon him in the silence.

Listen || What comes into your mind? Give each thought that enters your mind to God. Take each thought captive to Jesus. The thoughts that enter your mind's eye—surrender those to God. Don't try to make sense of all of them. Just hand them over to God. Trust Him with what comes to you as you listen.

FIVE WAYS TO CHECK WHETHER IT'S GOD SPEAKING:

1. He will not contradict what He's said in the Bible
2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of discernment
3. Ask the advice of a friend or leader who loves Jesus — what do they think?
4. Observe your own conscience — do you have a sense of peace or disquiet?
5. Ask the Lord for confirmation — to say the same thing in another way

As you finish be sure to write everything down, even the things that seem strange or unrelated. If God is speaking, He will continue the conversation. If they are just random thoughts, that's okay; it's all part of the process of learning.

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Matthew 6v9-13

"To this day I am still nursing myself on the Lord's Prayer like a child, and am still eating and drinking of it like an old man without getting bored of it." — Martin Luther

"The Lord's Prayer correctly understood is one of the high roads into the central mystery of Christian salvation and Christian experience." — N.T. Wright

"To cultivate a deeper prayer life all you have to do is say the Lord's Prayer, but take an hour to do it." — Timothy Jones

This prayer given by Jesus can be used in two quite distinct ways:

As a model. The Lord's Prayer serves as the ultimate prototype. It is a condensed liturgical poem clearly intended for frequent repetition. It teaches us what to pray.

As a map. The Lord's Prayer guides us as we express the things in our hearts. Each line can be applied and expanded in personal conversation with the Father. It teaches us how to pray.

The Lord's Prayer Exercises:

1. Underline each distinct phrase in the Lord's Prayer.
2. Pray each distinct phrase slowly leaving a long pause between each phrase. Pray through the Lord's prayer this way a minimum of three times.
3. Pray each of the phrases you have underlined one at a time. Talk to God about each phrase, one at a time. For example, the line Our Father in heaven. Talk to God about being your Father, who is in heaven. Start there and continue with each phrase.

PRAYER FOR CROSSPOINT

We want to be intentional to pray for our church family. God is on the move and we want to see him continue to grow us to be a community helping people trust and fully follow Jesus.

To encourage the body of Christ, we would invite you to write a prayer for some or all of the above people/groups. If you do, please share the prayer in written form. There are places to do this in the prayer room, or send an email or picture of your prayer to info@crosspointlew.org.

Thank you for lifting up our church family!

Please pray for the following:

Elders ||

Mark Greene, Matt Ivins, Dan Klempel, Bob Sischo, Jeremiah Miller, Andrew Wilson

Pray for discernment and wisdom to follow Jesus where He would want us to go. Pray for a shepherd's heart to love and care for our church family.

Staff ||

Vivian Ivins - Administration
Linda Stewart - Administration and Women's Ministry
Rob Cunningham - Director of Communications
Zach Ward - Pastor-in-Residence Youth Ministry
Bobbi Jo Bruni - Director of Kids Ministry
Carly Ball - Apprentice of Hospitality and Missions
Sierra Evarts - Apprentice of Worship Ministry
Kevin Beehner - Executive Pastor
Andrew Wilson - Lead Pastor

Pray for whatever the Holy Spirit places upon your heart for each of the CrossPoint staff.

International Workers (Missionaries) ||

Jason and Kristin Ungus - Malaysia

- Pray for Jason and Kristin and their kids as they transition countries and move to Malaysia.
- Pray for increased prayer and financial support so that unreached people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus might come to know Him.
- Pray that others who are passionate about reaching the lost might be raised up to be part of the team.

Fatos and Iris - Gjilan, Kosovo

- Pray for Fatos and Iris. Pray they would continue to develop as leaders of the local church in Gjilan. Pray for strength to continue in their education and leadership development.
- Pray for Ron and Lisa Ramsey, CMA missionaries, who are laying the groundwork for church planting and Kingdom expansion in the region of Gjilan.
- Pray for the elderly father of a key national church pastor who is hospitalized with COVID. Though he has heard the Gospel many times, he continues to practice the majority religion. Pray for his salvation and healing.
- Connie, an Alliance international worker, requests prayer for new relationships with four women who are at various stages of exploring the claims of Jesus. One is very close to salvation if she hasn't already decided in her own way. Connie writes, "Pray for her and our follow-up meetings. She's quite serious and has been reading about Christianity and the Bible for three months. Pray that her friend, whom I know a little, will come meet with us, too. She had tears in her eyes as we talked but didn't express much."

Local Partners || Please pray for the continued work of our local partners. Pray that God might use their work to love and care for the marginalized in our city so that more people may come to know Jesus.

- Life Choices
- Young Lives
- Young Life
- Foster Care
- Family Promise

Pray for Union Gospel Mission (UGM) as they are looking to come to the LC Valley and help those who are struggling with homelessness. Their mission is Rescue, Recovery, and Restoration for the poor in our world. Pray for the right person to emerge who will manage their thrift store as they get UGM up and running.

Leadership at CrossPoint ||

Please pray for our ministry leaders, CrossPoint Community Facilitators, Worship Leaders, and Serve Team leaders—those who are on the front lines of making disciples will undergo spiritual attack. Please pray for protection, boldness, faith, and openness to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Our Church Family ||

Pray for our church family in these ways:

- God would grow us up into the image of Jesus more this year
- We would be a bold people, willing to share our faith in a hostile world
- That more leaders would emerge who sense the call to make disciples of Jesus
- That we would grow in authentic community and deep relationships
- That we would be marked by radical generosity
- That we would know the Holy Spirit is working in and among us
- That we would see more people come to know Jesus as Savior
- That we as a church would grow in being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did

PRAYER FOR THE LC VALLEY AND THE WORLD

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

1 Timothy 2v1-27

“God does His best work for the world through prayer. God’s greatest glory and man’s highest good are secured by prayer. Prayer forms the godliest men and makes the godliest world.” — E. M. Bounds

It can be helpful to focus our emergency intercessions at times of large-scale crisis on three particular groups:

1. People afflicted: We ask God to comfort those who suddenly find their lives torn apart by grief, loss, fear, and trauma.
2. Pastors and priests: We ask God to give courage to church leaders seeking to bring Christ's presence and hope in the midst of trauma and profound questions of pain.
3. Peacemakers, politicians, and police: We ask God to give clarity and wisdom to government agencies and NGOs, blessing and supporting their efforts to bring justice, reconciliation, and aid.

Identify and pray for whatever crisis weighs heavily on your heart today.

PRAYER FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Pray Psalm 91 aloud.

Then pray for:

- The containment of the virus
- The ill and isolated
- The protection of the vulnerable
- Local and national leaders
- Health professionals
- Those affected in other ways by the pandemic
- Personal fear and/or indifference

Breathe deeply, thank God for His presence, and release into His hands all you've prayed.

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

We live in a world where injustice happens; where situations unfold that need God's presence and power to bring transformation.

Starting to pray for justice can feel like a challenging process. Here are three simple suggestions to get started:

1. ASK

Start by asking God how you can pray for the issue you're concerned about. The Lord's Prayer has a simple, effective framework to inform your prayers:

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name"

Begin with worship. Jesus is Lord, even in areas of injustice.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done"

What does God's Kingdom look like? How could His rule and reign change the lives of those who have been affected by injustice?

"Give us today our daily bread"

What are the practical needs you see that need to be addressed?

"Forgive us our sins"

Who are the sinners and sinned against? What responsibility do we have to say sorry or to forgive? Pray for outbreaks of mercy.

2. BELIEVE

We have hope. God can — and does — change the world. Even the greatest injustice can be overcome by the power of prayer. God can make a difference, and often chooses to act through our prayer and action.

Ask the Lord for the gift of faith to see, pray and act for the redemption of the situation you're concerned about.

3. PERSIST

We need to keep persisting in prayer even when nothing seems to be changing. There are many examples in the Bible and throughout church history of major breakthroughs that required faithfulness through years of prayer.

If you want to commit to praying until you see change, here are a few suggestions to help you:

- Hold a focused prayer day or week – invite people to join you to pray together.
- Use the Bible – write simple prayers from a passage like Isaiah 58 that focus on the issue of justice.
- Get outside – go to a place connected with the issue you want to pray for, such as a homeless shelter, hospital, or government building.
- Pray with others – gather a group of like-minded people; praying together is one of the best ways to keep going.
- Be responsible – some issues of injustice involve crime or danger; ensure that you don't put yourself in danger while you pray.

PRAYING THE “JESUS PRAYER”

“This prayer can expose the sin that is living in us, and this prayer can eradicate it. This prayer can stir up in the heart all the power of the enemy, and this prayer can conquer it and gradually root it out. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it descends into the depths of the heart, will subdue the snake which controls its ranges, and will save and quicken the soul.” – St. John Chrysostom

A simple way we can grow in prayerful confession is by praying one of the oldest prayers of the church:

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me a sinner.”

Originating from the lips of Blind Bartimaeus and reformulated by the Desert Fathers, this prayer has been rising in humble devotion out of the hearts of millions of saints for hundreds of years.

The Jesus Prayer is a form of centring prayer or “breath prayer” that facilitates our desire to practice the presence of God, carrying within it a particular focus on confession. The Jesus Prayer has become a proven prayer tool for many Christians in their quest to mould and maintain a “humble and contrite spirit” (Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 66:2).

Jesus Prayer Exercises:

- Pray this prayer several times, slowly, as you exhale. Make this prayer happen as often as you breath for several minutes. Focus your mind on each word spoken.

AND/OR

- Take one iteration of the prayer above and emphasize one word each time you pray the prayer until all words have been emphasized.
- “**Jesus**, Son of David, have mercy on me a sinner.”
- “Jesus, **Son** of David, have mercy on me a sinner.”
- “Jesus, Son **of** David, have mercy on me a sinner.”
- And so on through the rest of the prayer