

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

**BETTER
TOGETHER**

SUMMIT COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Summit Community Church
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The world needs the church today. Not a glorified social club, but the risen body of Jesus Christ himself living in His bride through the power of the Holy Spirit. What potential! May we answer the call to go forth under that power to reach the lost with the love and truth of the Gospel. This is not a time to sit back, but to charge ahead. If we are to do that, we need to be in prayer.

Over the next 40 days at Summit, through prayer we will look up, look in, look around, and look ahead. We will look up first to put everything else in perspective. If we don't set our sights on God first, everything else is in jeopardy. Next, we will look in. We must examine our own church and our own hearts. Then, once that is in order, we will look around. Where do we need to focus our attention? Who around us needs to hear the good news of Jesus (answer: everyone)? Finally, we will look ahead. We must never settle for where we are. If we ever grow complacent, it is then when we need to worry. What is more, think about God has in store! It's these perspectives that will help us fulfill our purpose as a church. We believe that God is still calling us to be faithful and serve him in this world. We thank you for joining with us in prayer. We are in anticipation of what God will do.

1.

LOOK UP

When was the last time you looked up at the night sky? It doesn't take much – a dark night and an upward gaze to glimpse the majesty of our God. Galaxies, nebulas, black holes, and solar systems, all formed out of infinite creativity. What's more, He created the cosmos from the word of his mouth. Yet we don't see as much of the night sky as we once did. Light pollution today obscures much of what used to be visible. The National Park Service has even made efforts to protect the beauty of "dark skies" against light pollution. Just as our physical upward gaze (and the wonders therein) is threatened by the encroachment of bright lights, our spiritual upward gaze is threatened. Be aware! Our society today makes bold advances under the guise of entertainment and convenience to blot out the beauty of the Creator. God is always there, but can we see him through the lights? Cast your eyes towards Him.

Day 1: I am so thankful that Jesus opened His prayer in the manner that He did. God's name comes first. May we do likewise. Above all else, we magnify Your great and holy name. Pray that we hallow Your name. As we saw in Haggai, may we put You first, first. Before anything else, we worship You. Matthew 6:9 "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.'"

Day 2: God is not just good to us, He is good *for* us. It's not thanks necessarily for what He has done, but for who He is. *Pray that the church thanks God for his goodness and righteousness.* 1 Chronicles 16:34, "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Day 3: Salvation is something so remarkable that even the angels are curious about it (1 Peter 1:12). We look to God as the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). *Pray that the marvel of salvation is something we dwell on as the redemption by God Himself.* John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Day 4: God's holiness is something to behold. Something is considered holy when it is sacred or set aside for special use. In the time of Isaiah, repetition signified importance. Therefore, repeating 'holy' three times signifies a special designation for God, unique to Him alone. *Pray to celebrate and commemorate God's holiness. May we be holy as He is holy.* Isaiah 6:3, "And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory."

Day 5: Incommunicable qualities are those attributes which God alone possesses. He is omnipresent: all places at the same time. He is omniscient: knowing all things. He is omnipotent: all powerful. He is immutable: He does not change in His character. *Pray that God be praised for His holy, divine nature that exists outside time and space.* 1 Timothy 1:17, "to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Day 6: We trust that God wants to lead Summit. The question is: do we follow? *Pray that Summit looks to the leading of God with the intent of following His leading. God, we look to Your leading. We want to follow.* Exodus 13:22, “The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.”

Day 7: 2 Kings 5 recalls the account of Naaman the Syrian. God moves radically in his life through healing him of leprosy. He becomes so reverent of God that he asks to take earth from Israel back to Syria. He also asks forgiveness should he accidentally kneel in the temple of Rimmon when the king leans on him. *Pray that we have a deep fear and reverence for God. May the smallest offense grieve our hearts.* 2 Kings 5:18, “In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter.”

Day 8: Do we truly fathom the weight of our sin before God? He sees it all. Our sin hurts us and those around us, but none more than our heavenly Father. *Pray that we humbly go to the throne to repent of breaking God’s heart.* 2 Samuel 12:13, “David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.’”

Day 9: God is not a distant force up in Heaven. He desires an intimate, personal relationship with us. *Pray that we look to God as our heavenly Father. He is our loving, good, Protector.* Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”

Day 10: We serve a jealous God. He wants to have our whole heart. *Pray that the hearts of Summit are turned to God alone. Pray that we seek Him first with all of our love.* Jeremiah 2:2, “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.” Revelation 2:4, “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

2.

LOOK IN

In Matthew 7:3 Jesus says, “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” As we look at the political and social landscape today, it’s heartbreaking to see society in such a dire condition. The church seems to be in a similar situation. Gone are the days of civil discourse where people could respectfully argue opposing opinions.

Summit is not immune to this threat. Many of us engage online through social media and face the temptation to let emotions flair. We grasp tightly to what we believe to be true, unwilling to even hear what others would say.

But what appears to be a dark time can in turn be a blessing. If we look to God and examine our own hearts, we can experience unity. If we humble ourselves and listen and love graciously, we can experience healing from the pain of division. If we lay aside our differences at the foot of the cross, Jesus can bring a peace that will draw in the masses. But it all depends on how willing we are to admit our imperfections. The Bible speaks at length of the dangers of pride. Jesus challenged the religious people of Jerusalem who sought to dole out justice – he turned it back on them. “You without sin cast the first stone” He said to them. Our focus should be that of Hebrews 10:24, to “stir one another to love and good works...encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

I envision what hope Summit could bring if we examined ourselves and our church. We could become such a blessing if we root out division over secondary matters.

Day 11: *God, open my eyes to how I need to connect with God’s church. Help me to know that I am a crucial piece in God’s house.* Ephesians 2:20-23 “Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Day 12: Confession of sin shows personal reflection as well as a trust and intimacy in the sharing. It should be the goal of every believer at Summit that we are baring our sins in our effort to overcome them. *Pray that the people of Summit search their hearts for buried, hidden sin. Pray that they confess their sins.* James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray

for one another, that you may be healed. 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.”

Day 13: A military unit must maintain high levels of functionality. Their reality demands high performance. The same is true of the church. Our stakes are much higher and yet we often don’t care about holding our brothers and sisters accountable. *Pray that Summit disciplines where needed to help with growth. Pray that people find others to hold them accountable.* Matthew 18:15-20, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained a brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am also.”

Day 14: Of one hundred people, the Christian will read the Bible and the other ninety-nine will read the Christian. We need to develop character in order to model it to our communities. *Pray that God would continue to build our character. Pray that we do the right thing, especially when it’s hard. May we do the right thing, even when no one is looking.* Luke 8:17, “For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.”

Day 15: Calls for unity abound in the New Testament. It's what makes the difference in the church. Satan knows the power of a church united and will work to undermine that unity. *Pray that Summit unites under the call to make disciples. May we be unified against the enemy who seeks to divide us.* Philippians 2:2, "complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

Day 16: Humility contributes to the unity of the body. When we put aside personal preferences, we can focus together on the mission God called us to. *Pray that we submit to each other through service. Let us model serving the way Christ did when He left Heaven for us.* Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Day 17: Loving one another has no exclusions or exceptions. *Ask that God gives you the strength to love the people who you struggle to love.* John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Day 18: Whenever I struggle with discouragement, it's always helpful to reflect on the blessings God has poured out. They abound in all our lives. *Thank God for His wonderful blessings. We are so blessed in so many ways, help us guard against being overly impressed with the blessings, where that becomes our vision.* Matthew 7:11, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good

gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

Day 19: Church is not something to be taken lightly. So often we insult God and miss the blessing of holy community because we are not connected to the church. A Christian does no good if they do not put down roots in a church family. *Pray that every person who calls Summit home will renew that commitment to belong to and serve in the ministry of Summit to the glory of God. Ask that Summit sees a committed congregation ready for what God would have them do.* Joshua 24:15, “And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Day 20: The question is not *if* we should serve the church, but *where* we should serve. God has chosen to use us as tools of the ministry of the Gospel, and we would do well to answer that call. *Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment about where He would have you serve the church. Commit to doing whatever it is that He has called you to.* Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

3.

LOOK AROUND

Travis said that God will meet us at the level of our expectations. William Carey said, “expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” He was one of the first missionaries to India. At the time, the churches in England where he lived were not interested in missions or evangelism. Carey wrote a short book, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens: In Which the Religious State of the Different Nations of the World, the Success of Former Undertakings, and the Practicability of Further Undertakings Are Considered*. It is a long title but a simple message: Go. This book was instrumental in forming the Baptist Missionary Society by arguing that Christians should be compelled to bring the Gospel to everyone.

Travis recently preached through the book of Haggai. In that book, God reprimanded the nation of Israel because they were building paneled houses for themselves and neglecting the temple. In the same way today, we can be so focused on ourselves that we miss what is really important. God commissioned us to be His ambassadors here on Earth. One day we will all be held to account for how we answered the call.

Day 21: We start this section with one of the marks of a disciple – a heart for the lost. *Pray for God to give Summit the heart of Jesus which had compassion on the crowds.* Matthew 9:36, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Day 22: We minister not just to the soul of a person but to their physical needs as well. It’s the care that God shows us and expects us to show to others. *Pray for the people that God will bring to Summit with physical needs, that we can serve them. Give us ways to serve both spiritually and physically.* James 2:16, “and one of you says to them, ‘go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”

Day 23: God has given Summit our relationship with the Gorham school district. As we prayed earlier, we want to follow where God leads. *Pray for the children and families that Summit can serve through their partnership with the school district. Protect the relationship so we can continue to be an example of Christ to the community.* Matthew 19:14, “but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Day 24: Jesus calls the church to be the salt of the earth. At that time, salt served as a flavor enhancer and as a preservative. *Pray that God uses Summit to enhance the world around through our character. In the same way, pray that God uses Summit to preserve our community from further corruption and spiritual rot.* Matthew 5:13, “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?”

Day 25: Jesus set an example of finding people invisible to the rest of society. Whether it was Zacchaeus, the Samaritan women at the well, or the woman with the issue of blood, He paid attention. *Pray that God opens our eyes to the people who are alone so that we can love them.* John 4:4-26.

Day 26: People today grapple with hopelessness. Whether it is the pandemic or other crises, our world is broken. *Pray that God brings people into our path that we can share the hope of Jesus with. Pray that we take the time to offer ourselves generously to the broken.* Matthew 11:28, “come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Day 27: We celebrate the extraordinary generosity of Summit during the pandemic to raise funds for Covid-19 relief. One of the foundational values of our faith is the value and obligation to care for the poor. *Ask God that He continues to burden His church with a heart for the poor. Bless Summit in order that we may go and be a blessing to the least of these.* Galatians 2:10, “Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.”

Day 28: The mission of the church calls us either to go or send. Otherwise, we hinder the Gospel. *Ask God to protect Summit from becoming inward focused. May we continue to have a heart always looking to go and send.* Luke 10:1, “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.”

Day 29: The church today faces a temptation to assimilate to the culture of the world. We want to appeal to people outside of the church. Summit loves the lost, but not at a cost of the truth. *Pray that Summit holds firm in the preaching of the truth, in love, without compromise. Build our trust in the power of the Word as it goes forth.* Luke 10:13, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.”

Day 30: God’s command to love our neighbor doesn’t come with qualifications. We don’t get to choose who our neighbor is. *Ask God that He take away any prejudice or bias towards a people or person. Take away any animosity towards those we come across.* Luke 10:29, “But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

4.

LOOK AHEAD

When we look at the life of Paul, we see a man who was driven. He constantly looked to new mission fields where he could bring the message of Jesus. There was always a new church to plant or city to visit. In 2 Corinthians 11 he recounts some of the trials he faced in his ministry;

“Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”

We most likely won't face these same trials at Summit. But we can emulate the same perseverance of Paul to continue on in the ministry no matter what. Nothing could stop him from advancing the kingdom of God. Our prayer throughout these 40 days is that everyone adopts that same determination to advance the kingdom, no matter the cost. Eternity is at stake, and I want to stand confidently before the judgment seat knowing that I served at a church sold out for the mission of the Gospel. Do not settle. Do not fear. Do not think that God can't or won't use you, that your work is done. Like Paul, we must strive as long as we live to sanctify ourselves and build His kingdom.

Day 31: New perspective – Do not grow content with where you are spiritually. When we think that we have arrived, we fall prey to arrogance. *Pray that each of us at Summit press on towards the goal of the upward call of Christ Jesus. Sanctification is a lifelong journey that we must all travel. Pray that God continues to work on the hearts and minds of the people of Summit to become more like Christ.* Philippians 3:12-14, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Day 32: New neighbors - as Summit moves to a new location, we will be in a new community with new opportunities to create relationships. Each member also has an opportunity with the people in their own neighborhoods. *Ask God for new connections to the people in proximity to you so you can share the Gospel. Pray for boldness to reach out beyond your comfort zone to the people*

around you. Romans 15:2, “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.”

Day 33: New churches – We don’t want to grow complacent being static as a church. Summit will be a church that plants churches to reach those unchurched in our state. Paul modeled this in his desire to spread the Gospel ever further in the world. He planned to go to Spain, which at the time was considered the end of the world. *Pray for a discontent with Summit’s reach of the Gospel. There are always more people further on who are waiting for us to share the good news. Pray that we plant new churches in communities and towns where there is no church.* Romans 15:24, “I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.”

Day 34: New generations – we seek to answer the Great Commission with generations of disciples. *Pray that God would raise up spiritual generations of disciples. Establish a rich spiritual legacy at Summit that extends out geographically into the future.* Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Day 35: New Summit communities - we want to see full participation in a small group at Summit. These communities are a lifeline to the church where people connect in order to go deeper in their faith. *Pray for the small group leaders currently and in the future who will serve the church in this way. Pray that people see the value in fellowship with other believers who can walk*

alongside them in their spiritual journey. Acts 2:46, "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts."

Day 36: New building – one that serves as a beacon to the community. We set the expectation of a facility that can minister to Gorham and beyond, all throughout the week. *Pray God's presence over the new location as a hub of ministry to the community which can ultimately bring people to Christ. Pray that every person who walks through that building feels His loving presence. Matthew 5:14-15, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."*

Day 37: New attacks - we know that Satan is at work to thwart the work of God at Summit. We would be ignorant to disregard this threat. *Pray protection around Summit, its people, its leadership, and its ministry. Pray for foresight in order to anticipate the attacks and strength to fend them off. Acts 20:29, "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."*

Day 38: New leaders - we believe that the work God is calling us to will require raising up new leaders. Our future is growth beyond what we are currently. *Ask God to raise up new leaders to grow as Summit grows. Pray for the leaders we have right now and the leaders that will serve Summit in new areas. 2 Timothy 2:2, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."*

Day 39: New boldness – God’s word faces opposition in many different forms. We echo the prayers of the early church, “*And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness,*”. *Keep us from compromising Your truth.* 2 Timothy 4:3, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but have itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.”

Day 40: New heavens, new earth – there is an ultimate destiny waiting for all of us. Our future home awaits us. *Pray that we always have eternity in mind. This is not our destination – You have gone to prepare a place for us. May we look forward to that future.* 2 Peter 3:13, “But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”



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**Summit Community Church will glorify God and
advance God's kingdom by making disciples of Jesus
Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.**