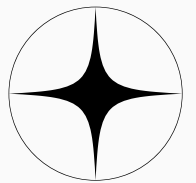


THE GIFT OF PRAYER

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26*



Advent 2024






TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

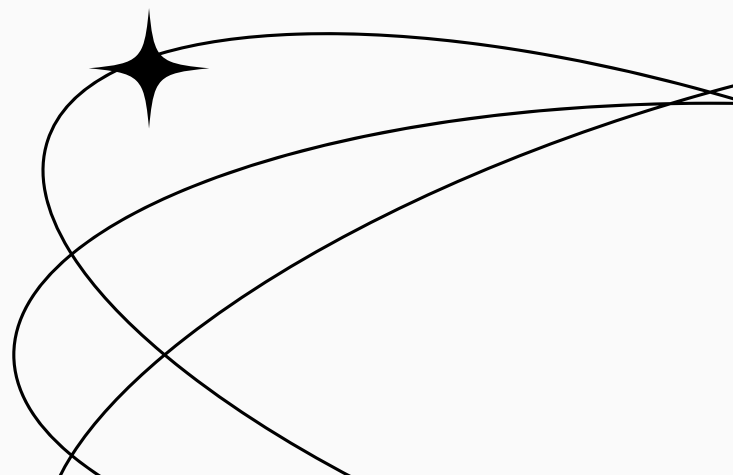
Scriptures to Pray

Historic Prayers

Meditations

Immanuel Journaling

Christmas Prayers



THE GIFT OF PRAYER

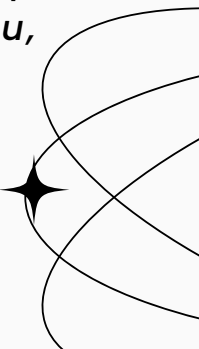


Dear Church Family,

It is my sincere honor to share these prayers, scriptures and opportunities to meditate on Jesus with you. As you move through this gift of prayer, I believe you will encounter the love of Jesus in new and fascinating ways! Ways that move your heart closer to His heart- ways that fill you with hope, peace, and joy as you explore your identity in Him. As you gather in homes and around tables with family and friends, be reminded of the feast He has placed before you, His never-ending love and faithful provision for all your needs. Share these scriptures, prayers and meditations while you enjoy this season of great anticipation! **Come, Thou long expected Jesus.**

I pray this new year brings fresh awakening for your soul and mind as you pursue a good God with good plans for now and in your future. *May the Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, be gracious to you, and give you peace.*

Prayerfully,
Prayer Pastor Samantha Rude
& The Grace Fellowship Prayer Ministry



SCRIPTURES TO PRAY

Take a moment and get present with the presence of Jesus.
Read a scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the
beauty of Jesus and the Love of the Father

Hope

*a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to
happen.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalms 121



SCRIPTURES TO PRAY

Take a moment and get present with the presence of Jesus.
Read a scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the
beauty of Jesus and the Love of the Father

Peace

*the peace of God, "which transcends all understanding," is the
harmony and calmness of body, mind, and spirit*

For you made the Eternal your **refuge**,
the Most High your only home.
No evil will come to you;
plagues will be turned away at your door.
He will command His heavenly angels to guard you,
to keep you safe in every way.
They will hold you up in their hands
so that you will not crash, or fall, or even graze
your foot on a stone.
You will walk on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the lion and the serpent
underfoot.
"Because he clings to Me in love,
I will rescue him from harm;
I will set him above danger.
**Because he has known Me by name,
He will call on Me, and I will answer.**
I'll be with him through hard times;
I'll rescue him and grant him honor.
I'll reward him with many good years on this earth
and let him witness My salvation."

Psalm 91 The Voice



SCRIPTURES TO PRAY

Take a moment and get present with the presence of Jesus.
Read a scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the
beauty of Jesus and the Love of the Father

Joy

*The key to immeasurable joy is living in intimate contact with
Jesus, the source of all joy.*

You, Eternal One, are my sustenance and my life-
giving cup.

In that cup, You hold my future and my eternal
riches...

I will bless the Eternal, whose wise teaching
orchestrates my days
and centers my mind at night.

He is ever present with me;
at all times He goes before me.

I will not live in fear or abandon my calling
because He stands at my right hand.

**This is a good life—my heart is glad, my soul is
full of joy,
and my body is at rest.**

Who could want for more?

You will not abandon me to experience death and
the grave
or leave me to rot alone.

Instead, You direct me on the path that leads to a
beautiful life.

As I walk with You, the pleasures are never-
ending,
and I know true joy and contentment.

Psalm 16 The Voice



SCRIPTURES TO PRAY

Take a moment and get present with the presence of Jesus.
Read a scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the
beauty of Jesus and the Love of the Father

Love

*True love is humble, righteous, forgiving, patient, generous,
kind and willing to endure personal loss and suffering. It is even
willing to remain anonymous...*

Your steadfast love, O Lord,
extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the
mountains of God;
your judgments are like the
great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.
**How precious is your steadfast
love, O God!**

The children of mankind take
refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of
your house,
and you give them drink from
the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.
Oh, continue your steadfast love to
those who know you,
and your righteousness to the
upright of heart!

Psalms 36



HISTORIC PRAYERS

*In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation
and our bliss.*

*In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.
You are our mother, brother, and Savior.*

*In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and
plenteous grace.*

*You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and
embrace us.*

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

*Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be
well, and all shall be well,*

and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

Julian of Norwich, 14th century AD

*I appeal to you, Lord, God of Abraham, God of Isaac,
God of Jacob and Israel, You the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ. Infinitely merciful as You are, it is Your
will that we should learn to know You. You made
heaven and earth, You rule supreme over all that is.
You are the true, the only God; there is no other god
above You.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ...and the gifts of the
Holy Spirit, grant that all who read what I have
written here may know You, because You alone are
God; let them draw strength from You; keep them
from all teaching that is heretical, irreligious or
godless.*

Irenaeus of Lyons, 130–202 AD

HISTORIC PRAYERS

*Eternal God, eternal Trinity,
You have made the Blood of Christ so precious
through His sharing in Your Divine nature.
You are a mystery as deep as the sea;
the more I search, the more I find,
and the more I find the more I search for You.
But I can never be satisfied;
what I receive will ever leave me desiring more.
When You fill my soul I have an ever-greater
hunger,
and I grow more famished for Your light.
I desire above all to see You,
the true light, as you really are. Amen.*

Catherin of Siena, 14th century AD

*We beseech You, Master, to be our helper and
protector.
Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the
lowly;
Raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the
ungodly;
Restore the wanderers of Your people;
Feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;
Raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.*

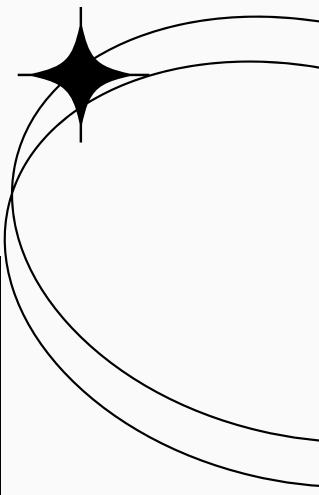
Clement of Rome, 1st century-101 AD

*And you have all been formed into one choir, to...sing
God's song together and praise the father with one
voice through Jesus Christ, that when he hears you
he may realize from what you have done so well that
you are of his Son's members.*

Ignatius of Antioch, 35-108 AD

MEDITATIONS

These meditations are taken from **Isaiah 9 and 1 Peter 2:9–10**. Contemplate their truths, experience the emotions, ruminate on the beautiful and redemptive plans of God. As you do this, invite the Holy Spirit to minister wisdom and understanding to your heart and mind.



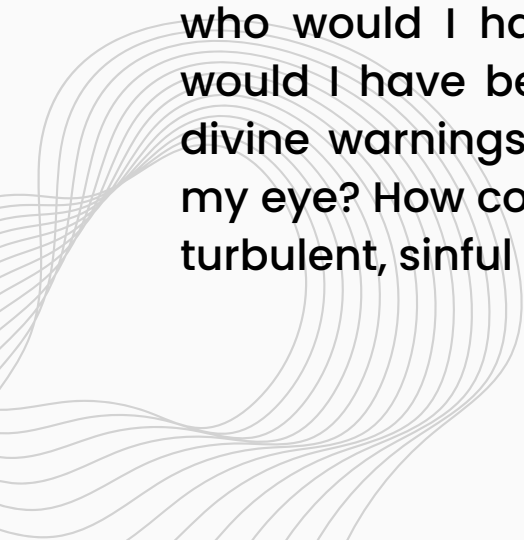
- After the Fall, our ancestors held onto hope for a Savior, but as time went by, the darkness grew thicker and thicker. People lost sight of the guiding light that leads to heaven, and bad deeds continued to haunt future generations. It's a reminder that our actions can leave a lasting impact, even beyond our own lifetime.

I choose to leave a legacy of faith and prayer to the next generations.

- While every man had the chance to follow God's path to paradise, only a handful of them did. The world lost its grip on morality and faith;

I am grateful for living in brighter times where the Holy Spirit is here to comfort and guide.

- If God had placed me back in the days of yesteryear, who would I have been? Even with all my blessings, would I have been a daredevil, thumbing my nose at divine warnings and chasing every fancy that caught my eye? How could I have kept my soul shining in those turbulent, sinful times? ***I can only imagine...***



IMMANUEL JOURNALING



*"...All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
Matthew 1:22-23*

Immanuel, "**God with us**" - let that sink in! Encountering the warm embrace of God's love is when we truly begin to realize and walk in His goodness. Our habits shape our lives, and the same rule applies to our connection with a loving God. The Immanuel journaling technique is all about strengthening your bond with Him, one step at a time. With regular practice, you'll start seeing evidence of God's presence everywhere you go! And there will be hope, peace, joy, and love in your everyday life. Try focusing on the Holy Spirit and ask the Lord to help you recognize His constant presence in your daily life as you move through these journaling topics.



JOURNAL 1

- Quiet, Breathing, Prayer

Attunement is focused on a mutual mind-state with our Father. Attunement also helps us to feel seen, heard, understood, and cared for. Start with quieting your mind by taking a few deep breaths. Breathe in for a count of 4, hold for a count of 4, and breathe out for a count of 6. (Repeat this 3 times)

Once you feel relaxed, open in prayer asking God to help you hear from Him and experience a deeper connection with Him. Journal any thoughts, feelings, or things you'd like to remember.

[illegible]



JOURNAL 2

- Interactive Gratitude

Gratitude opens us up to the presence of God. Throughout Scripture, God always encourages us to give thanks. Our awareness of His presence can be dimmed when we experience life's difficulties, and gratitude refocuses us on God's presence in our lives. On the following pages, you will be prompted to journal your gratitude for all God is, and has done in your life and beyond.

"God, You are..."

List the attributes of God you are thankful for

[illegible]

[illegible]

- Interactive Gratitude

"God, thank you for..."

Fill in those things you are grateful for in your life.
Could be experiences, relationships, something God
has done in your life

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

- Interactive Gratitude

"Child of Mine..."

Listen for God's response to you. Write down what you feel He is communicating to you.

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JOURNAL 3

- “I can see you...”

What does God observe in you physically right now? Listen for what He sees in your heart and mind or what you're doing in life right now.

“Daughter/Son I see you...”

[illegible]



JOURNAL 4

- “I can hear you...”

What does He hear you saying to yourself?
Thinking? Believing? What does He hear you saying
about Him?

"Daughter/Son I hear you..."

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



JOURNAL 5

- “I understand what you are experiencing...”

Write down - "Daughter/Son, I understand what you are experiencing..." How does God see your dreams, blessings, fears, troubles, suffering?

"Daughter/Son I understand what your are experiencing..."

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JOURNAL 5

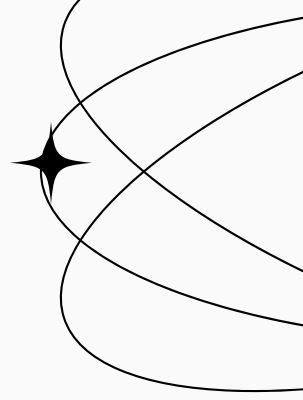
- “I treat your weakness tenderly...”

Write in your journal - "Daughter/Son, in your weakness, I..." How does God show up in your weaknesses? In those areas and experiences where your need for Him is most evident?

“Daughter/Son I treat your weakness tenderly...”

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CHRISTMAS PRAYERS



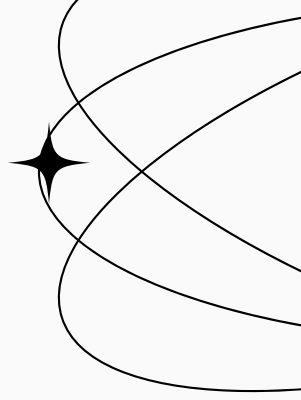
A Prayer for a Simple Christmas Celebration

Dear Jesus, during this Christmas season, help us not to overlook Your presence. Allow us to simplify our activities and traditions, so we can concentrate on celebrating Your birth. We thank You for being the Prince of Peace and ask for that same supernatural peace to fill our hearts. Your message of love for us is simple, yet life-changing. We are grateful for it. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Reflecting on the True Meaning of Christmas

Dear Lord, I am forever grateful for Your selfless sacrifice in coming to Earth to redeem me. The extent of Your love and willingness to save me brings me to tears of joy and thankfulness. I am filled with gratitude for the blessings You have given to me - being free from sin, having Jesus as my Lord, and Heaven as my eternal home. Your love has set me free from Satan's grasp, and for that, I will always be thankful. Thank you for everything You have done to save me. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS



Expressing Gratitude to God for Jesus

On this special day, we thank You, God, for sending Your Son to us. Born of a virgin, he lived a perfect life and died on the cross to redeem us from our sins. Jesus- we are grateful that You rose from the dead three days later, and that we celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ this Christmas and every Christmas. In Your name we pray, Amen.

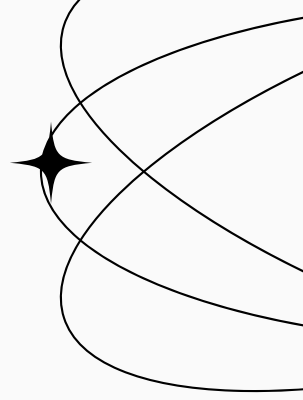
Shifting Our Focus to Jesus this Christmas

Dear Heavenly Father, it's easy to get swept up in the commercialism of Christmas, and I confess that I often find myself caught up in it. But today, I choose to refocus my heart and remember the true meaning of this special day. Today, and every day, I celebrate the birth of Jesus. In His holy name, Amen.

Celebrating Christmas with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

As Christmas draws near, we turn our hearts towards You, Father, and ask that we don't get lost in the hustle and bustle of the season. Instead, let us take time to honor the true gifts of Christmas – hope, peace, joy, and love – that were given to us on that first special day. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, the gift of hope was born unto us. We thank you, Father, for this immeasurable gift. We pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS



A Prayer of Comfort for Those Dealing with Loss and Grief

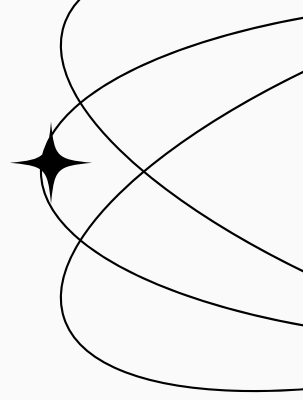
During Christmas, we can often feel the sting of loss and miss the ones we love. And still, Father in Heaven, we remember the incredible gift You gave to us – Your Son, Jesus, born a baby destined to die. Thank You for this incredible demonstration of love and light. Please help us to receive this gift and find comfort in it.

In times of grief and sorrow, we pray that You will bring us the peace that only You can provide. Mighty God, we ask You for the strength to persevere, and Everlasting Father, we thank You for carrying us through the difficult times.

We pray that the Wonderful Counselor will fill our minds with wisdom, and that the Prince of Peace will rule in our hearts. This Christmas season, help us to remember that the holiday is not about the people we celebrate with, but about the One we celebrate – Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, we pray for comfort, strength, and peace. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS



"Lord, Remind Me" by Jon Guerra

*When I hear the news and hear another war
has begun*

*And I wonder if God's on the side of either
one*

*I hear bullet, nail, or handcuff he bore all of
them And in the light my heart's as dark as
anyone's*

*Lord, remind me
Lord, remind me*

*That the shepherds heard the angels break
the silence in the field*

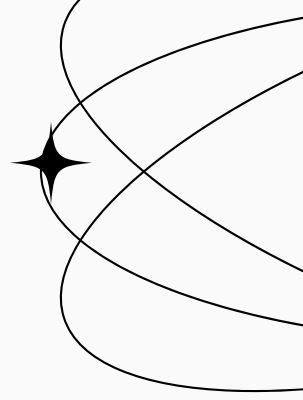
*That the wise men found a baby and they
could not help but kneel*

*That the one who heard our weeping,
became a child in manger sleeping*

Lord, remind me

*'Cause it's Christmas and I want to
remember*

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS



The Nativity of Our Lord

“Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.”

From The Book of Common Prayer (1979), 213

Prayers to See Christ's Presence

“God of glory,
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,
where the Light of the world is humbly born
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of
our world,
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your
justice,
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.”

“Light of life, you came in flesh,
born into human pain and joy,
and gave us power to be your children.
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,
so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.”

From “Nativity of Our Lord – Proper I, Year B: Prayers,”



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