

APRIL 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

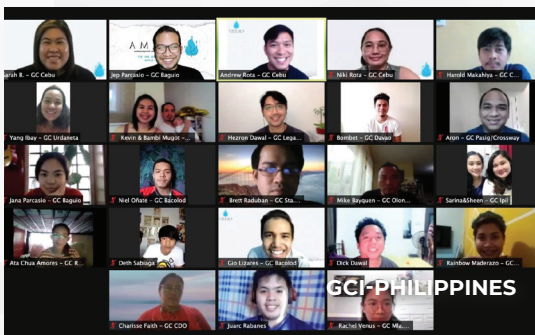
**“To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be,
wholly dependent on God for everything.”**
— Timothy Keller

1 HOLY WEEK PRAYER

In his last embodied evening with his disciples, Jesus humbly washed their feet and foreshadowed the cross through the breaking of bread and drinking of wine. Join in this prayer today: Jesus, you teach us the power of humility. Empower us to reject our own arrogance. Give us grace to serve those who are in desperate need of your love. Fill us with your compassion for the world.

2 GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday we remember Jesus’ willing sacrifice on the cross. This is commonly known as Christ’s passion, or suffering. He poured out his life so that grace would be poured out on us. Join us in thanking him: Jesus, our hearts are filled with gratitude for your sacrifice and suffering for us. You endured unfathomable pain, sorrow, and suffering on our behalf to bring us new life. Reveal in us the areas in our life that you are asking us to surrender, so that we can experience the fullness of the new life you are calling us into.



3 HOLY SATURDAY

There are no scriptures recording the events of the day after Jesus’ death on the cross. On this day of mourning and quiet disbelief, the practice of silence on Holy Saturday helps us to live in the real tension that God is very much alive, even though it can appear that he is silent in the face of our suffering. Take some time sit in silence in God’s presence. Rest in your friendship with him and experience his comfort.

4 EASTER

He is Risen! The tomb is empty and death is defeated. We rejoice in God’s mercy, grace, and love for us. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” I Peter 1:3



5 MEDITATION MONDAY

Luke 23:46 - Right before his death, Jesus managed these last words: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Words, despite all that had happened, that spoke of his unwavering trust that God the Father was still good and still trustworthy. It was a moment of complete surrender, even as Jesus entered into our fallen darkness, when he chose to believe in Love rather than doubt. Even with his limited strength, Jesus was able to cry out his witness to the goodness of God. It was a declaration so commanding that its power reached back through time to undo the actions of a young married couple who chose to believe an evil lie that God was selfish and untrustworthy. Jesus' words transformed "our" story by replacing humanity's original "no" with an incredible and overwhelming "yes." Lord, when life seems anything but fair, help us to believe that you really are good, and let us put our complete trust in your goodness.



6 MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

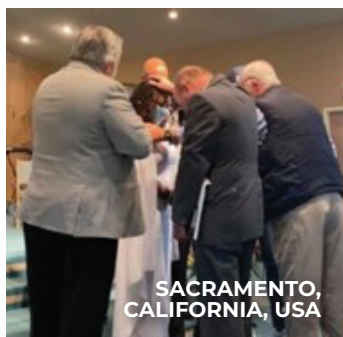
Please join us in prayer to thank God that we have been able to hold our Monthly Messy Church service, where many children and adults who don't attend any church join. During the closing of the churches due to the coronavirus, we have been able to organize "Take Away Messy Church." We have the participants pass by the entrance to the church at five-minute intervals and collect their "work pages" and some "take away food." We have almost the same numbers attending as the regular meetings, so it is a great success.

7 CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

We are celebrating our first in-person worship service since the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many GCI congregations, we are re-gathering in a new venue. Please join us in asking God to help us be salt and light in the community in which he has placed us.

8 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, USA

We continue our weekly Drive-thru Pantry in collaboration with our Korean Baptist Church landlord, with about 50 cars coming through each Saturday. Join us in praying for our neighborhood, that we may meet both physical and spiritual needs.



9 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, USA

Gracious God, we pray your blessings upon Kairis Coulter Chiaji, David Horuk, and Mike Smith we celebrate their ordinations onto the pastoral team. May they honor you as they joyfully join in the ministry you have prepared for them.

10 GCI- LATIN AMERICA

We are grateful for a time of celebrating the goodness of God through our virtual Women's Ministry meetings. It was wonderful to connect with our sisters in prayer and fellowship. May the peace of Christ guard the hearts and minds of the group as they continue to minister in their local contexts.

11 WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

It is with great joy that we celebrated our 53rd church anniversary. May God's grace abound all the more in the next chapter of our lives together.

12 MEDITATION MONDAY

Galatians 2:20 - When Jesus died, you died. When Jesus was raised, you were raised. When Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, you ascended to the right hand of the Father. The Father's plan has always been to gather us together, in his Son, and to have us fully embraced within the Trinity's relationship. You are beloved, utterly and completely adored by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Jesus is, so are you in this world. You are in union with Love. Take a moment to breathe in Love and exhale everything else. Imagine Love coursing through your veins and empowering you to let go and give into Love. The world needs more of your unique expression of God's love. Ask Jesus how you can participate with Love right now.

13 AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

We are delighted to report the baptism of Caitlin Davies and Aka Tuifuaivaha at Takapuna Beach. Caitlin and Aka are a young couple who have been attending services in Auckland for several months. We join together in congratulating them and extending them a hearty welcome into the Church family.

14 SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

A wonderful opportunity presented itself to us to partner with another church near us and the local Rotary to feed 130 students in a school district during the two breaks this winter and spring. We ask that you lift up the recipients of our outreach. May they experience the love of Christ and his care for them through the nourishment they receive.

15 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Jesus, we rejoice in your presence in Helen Callaghan's life and celebrate her ordination onto the pastoral team. Give Helen a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of her ministry.

16 GCI

Holy Spirit, we ask that you guide our Superintendents from across all of our regions as they gather on a group video call. Grant them wisdom as they serve their regions.

17 SURREY HILL, OKLAHOMA, USA

We are celebrating our digital egg hunt. Community members joined in the fun as they used their phones and traveled around the neighborhood on the hunt. Join us in praying that the deeper relationships with Christ and our neighbors will be formed through the fun times we shared together.



18 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

As we shift from an in-person to a virtual event, please pray for God's provision and purpose to be fulfilled in our Denominational Celebration. Please lift up those who will be contributing to the event by facilitating a workshop or leading a main session, as well as the dedicated team who will be supporting the event behind the scenes. We also ask for prayers for our members, that we will feel connected to one another and be inspired to live out a united vision of being the Church.

19 MEDITATION MONDAY

II Kings 6:17 - When Elisha's servant woke to find the Syrian army surrounding their camp, he cried out to Elisha, "What are we to do?" Elisha answered, "Don't be afraid. We have more forces on our side than they have on theirs," and prayed for his servant to have supernatural vision. When the servant's eyes were opened, God allowed him to see into the heavenly realm where invisible armies of horses and chariots of fire stood ready, far outnumbering the Syrian troops. Despite this miracle, the enemy did not disappear. They were still there. The natural truth was still true, but Elisha's servant was given a peek into "heavenly reality." The truth was that a greater angelic army was already there, but until his "eyes of faith" were opened, he was unable to see it. Holy Spirit, open our spiritual eyes and help us to "fear not" as we walk by faith and not by sight.

21 CARINA, AUSTRALIA

Gracious God, in perfect assurance of your presence among us, we pray your blessings upon Margaret Cohen as we celebrate her ordination as Assistant Pastor. May she honor you as she joyfully joins with you the ministry you have prepared for her.

22 DHAKA, BANGLADESH

A small group of leaders are exploring the potential of planting a church in Dhaka. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as local leaders map the neighborhoods.

23 HMAWBI, MYANMAR

In Myanmar, the immediate concern now is the welfare of the people and the church in light of the military seizure of power. There is anger, injustice, and a sense of loss and uncertainty with the ongoing protests and civil disobedience movement by the people and violence by the authorities. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people have become more difficult. The progress of the last ten years is in danger of being rolled back, including the gospel work in Myanmar. We pray for God's power and providence in directing the affairs of history in line with his will.

24 CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA

Let us lift up the Lily Women's Retreat being hosted in our Cleveland congregation this weekend. May it be a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, and connection with Jesus for all who attend. Theme: "I Am Doing A New Thing" "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

25 PANDEMIC PRAYER

Holy God, we thank you for your presence with us throughout this ongoing pandemic. We thank you for the ways you have protected us, provided for us, and comforted us over the past year. As the world begins to open back up, we ask you for wisdom and grace as you lead us forward. Help us to follow your pace and to love others well through the decisions we make.

26 MEDITATION MONDAY

John 6:68 - Many of Jesus' followers ended up leaving him, saying his teachings were too difficult. Surrounded by his twelve closest friends, Jesus asked them if they wanted to leave too. Peter quickly answered, "Lord, where would we go? You are the only one whose words give eternal life." Jesus offers them a choice: stay or go. It's a curious thing, this freedom that God gives human beings. Wouldn't it be better if there weren't any choices? What if humans could only be nice to one another? No more bad people...only good little robots who don't know how to love or laugh or even be mean, because all of those behaviors involve making a choice. Perhaps the disciples at some point considered leaving, but to what end? They knew Jesus spoke life, even if they didn't always understand. Jesus, your words are truth and life. Help us to intentionally choose you every single day.

27 GRACE COMMUNION SEMINARY

It is registration time for the summer semester. We pray for wisdom and strength for the students, teachers, and administrators. May they be equipped for the good works you have for each of them.

28 GCI-PHILIPPINES

Praise God for the formative time of connecting and growing in knowledge of Jesus through our SHEMA Online Conference for young adults via Zoom. May disciples and leaders develop out of the time spent together.

29 GCI-CANADA

Let us remember our co-laborers in Canada today, and ask God to continue to transform their ministry.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

30 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA

On the 1st Fridays of the month, we will have Fish Fry Fundraisers to raise money for our Love Fund. Please pray for the event's success. The Love Fund has historically been used to provide appliances, pay past utility bills, and assist church community neighbors who cannot get assistance elsewhere. We hope to use this monthly event as a springboard to greater community engagement and opportunities to share the love of Christ with our neighbors.