

# MAY 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

**“God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful and painful.” — Henri Nouwen**

## **1 ST. VINCENT, WEST INDIES**

A major volcanic eruption in the Eastern Caribbean prompted thousands to evacuate parts of the main island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Please join us in praying for the restoration of the island.

## **2 FAITH AVENUE PRAYER: CONNECT GROUPS**

Lord God Almighty, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. We pray for our Connect Groups. May your presence be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with you and one another. Call out of us what is not of you, and call us up into the good work you have for us to participate in ministry with you.

## **3 MEDITATION MONDAY**

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT) - As lovers and followers of Jesus Christ, we are indwelt by the Spirit of God. How amazing that is! The Creator and Sustainer of the universe lives in us because we've chosen to love and follow him. We are his mobile temples, or sanctuaries, shining and burning his light so that the world may find and know God. In choosing to be his disciples, we've received his Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, our True North graciously given to us by God. Take a deep breath and slowly exhale. Thank and praise God for giving you the breath of life - his breath, his Spirit.



HYDERABAD, INDIA

## **4 KENOCKEE, MICHIGAN, USA**

To maintain connection and have a little fun, we hosted a baby picture contest. Members submitted baby photos and the congregation guessed a member's name for each picture. There were lots of laughs and this was a great opportunity to get to know new members.

## **5 GCPodcast**

We will be recording another quarter of GCPodcast today. Please be in prayer for all involved in the process. May the Spirit fill the recording time with wisdom, creativity, and contributions that will advance the building of the Kingdom.



## 6 GCI – USA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Let us join with the Body of Christ across the US seeking the will of our awesome God. May we look to him alone for our hope. May we answer his call to love one another as he has loved us. May we be instruments of peace, mercy, and justice, seeking unity always in our circles of influence, our country, and in our global community.

## 7 CHIPOKA, MALAWI

Last month, we hosted the youth from the Lilongwe congregation. It was a wonderful time of communion and fellowship together. Join us in praying a blessing over our young people as they journey with Jesus. May they be filled with faith and joy as they pursue the opportunities God has created for them.

## 8 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

This weekend our congregation regathers for the first time. Please join us in prayer for our reunion – that as we are filled with the joy of being together, we will also hold space for all that has changed in us and in the world around us. Pray that we have eyes to see the unexpected ways God has provided grace through this time, and to see the way he is making for us as we move forward.

## 9 MOTHER'S DAY

Lord, we thank you for the gift of life and nurturing we receive from our mothers and those who mother us. They reflect your image as they care for us. We pray your blessings for them and ask that you extend your hands of grace over them today and always.

## 10 GCI – LATIN AMERICA

Romans 8:15 (TLV) - Regardless of our relationships with our earthly parents or guardians, we can rest assured knowing we have a perfect heavenly Father. As believers, we have received the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, who proclaims to us the truth of who we are: Beloved children of God! We are no longer slaves to religious duty and we no longer fear that we are “not good enough” to please God. The Spirit of Christ residing in us makes us righteous and complete in the eyes of God. What are some insecurities that might be holding you back from living out the truth that you are God’s beloved child, fully pleasing in His sight?



## 11 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, USA

This spring we have been hosting weekly Truth and Life Conversations (TaLC) Connect Groups on unity and diversity. The revelation that diversity is a gift affirmed in unity in Jesus is a powerful one to process in community. Please join with us in prayer as we seek to launch TaLC groups in our neighborhood.

## 12 COLLEGE PARK, FLORIDA, USA

It was such a joyous occasion to celebrate our first baptism last month. We praise God for transformed life and the growth of our church family.

## 13 CINCINNATI, OHIO, USA

We are grateful to be able to serve our community. We have resumed our summer outreach of hosting a community yard sale and allowing neighbors to set up their own stalls to sell their goods. We pray that during the events they will feel safe and welcomed in our church facility.

## 14 HYDERABAD, INDIA

Last month our congregation prayed a blessing over the children. May they continue to experience God’s kindness to them personally.

## 15 CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA

Thank you for your prayers for the Lily Women’s conference. GCI congregations from across the US hosted women’s retreats as watch parties, and individuals logged on as well. It was a wonderful morning spent with beautiful women in Christ, full of fun, laughter, and worship centered on Jesus.

## 16 GCI

Father, we thank you for our ministry leaders who lovingly serve the youth in our congregations. Please grant them clarity, strength, and joy as they disciple our upcoming generation.

## 17 MEDITATION MONDAY

Romans 8:11 (NLT) - Can you believe that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in YOU, as a lover and follower of Jesus? We have real resurrection life by the power of the Holy Spirit himself. The resurrection of Jesus not only has to do with the resurrection of our earthly bodies after death, but also with how we live life right now. Eugene Peterson once said, “We practice our death by giving up our will to live on our own terms. Only in that relinquishment or renunciation are we able to practice resurrection.” Pause and ask God for the courage to die daily to yourself as you practice resurrection.

## 18 HMAWBI, MYANMAR

Join us in continuing to pray for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar as their country continues to endure civil unrest. 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.





## 19 GROVE CITY, OHIO, USA

Centerpointe Church's Love Avenue held its second Community Care Day on Sunday, March 21, 2021. The team spread smiles, warm wishes for a great 2021, and spring cheer in the neighborhood immediately surrounding the church. The team went door to door and gave away over 85 gift bags containing candy, flower seeds, an inspirational quote, and information about the church. Nearly twenty members volunteered in various capacities to make this day a huge success. "We love because he first loved us." John 4:19-21 (NIV)

## 20 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, USA

This Easter, Christian Family Fellowship, our congregation in Jacksonville, hosted a children's Easter play. Church members enjoyed the children's presentation of the Easter story as an extra special addition to their Hope Avenue service.

## 21 GC - CANADA

We are so grateful for our international leaders. Pray for our leaders and members in Canada today.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people..." 1 Timothy 2:1

## 22 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Gracious God, we thank you for our faithful members. We pray these verses from Romans over our fellowship: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

## 23 PENTECOST

Holy Spirit, may we be transformed by you. Captivate our hearts and minds until we are set free from self-centeredness, free to be your servants to our neighbors.

## 24 MEDITATION MONDAY

Acts 2:3-4 (NRSV) - Just as God's personal presence was made known to Israel by the pillar of fire in the temple, now his presence takes up residence in the new temple of Jesus' body: his people, the Church. The universal Church is forever united and united to God by the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit's fire resides in every believer, empowering and transforming us so we can love God and others. Take a deep breath and remember that the Spirit of Christ lives in you. Reflect on what it means for the Church to be united by the Holy Spirit, to celebrate our ethnic differences and still be one in Christ.

## 25 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, USA

We ask for you to join us in prayer as we plan to host a Vacation Bible School in June. May all who attend continue afterward to commune with Jesus, our Prince of Peace.

## 26 GC COLOMBIA

Let us remember our co-laborers in Colombia 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

## 27 GCI-USA

Jesus, as our board gathers today, we ask that you guide the conversation and decisions made so that they will be pleasing to you. Unite us together by your Spirit and give us the strength to carry out your will.



## 28 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Gracious God, we thank you for the baptism into your body last month. May our new brother in Christ experience the new and abundant life we have in you.

## 29 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Energy is building around the upcoming virtual Denominational Celebration. Registrations are growing, and we are excited to have so many members to worship together. Please join us in praying for the Father's purposes to be accomplished, for the Spirit to expand our vision, and for Christ to establish his Kingdom among us.

## 30 TRINITY SUNDAY

Our Triune God, we celebrate the exciting mystery of your relationship with one another and with each of us. Grant us grace to continue to glorify you with our lives.

## 31 MEDITATION MONDAY

Galatians 4:6 (NLT) - Throughout the seasons of life, we must remember who we are - the children of the Triune God. God the Father released the Spirit of Christ Jesus into our innermost being, moving us to cry out to our heavenly Father, our true Father. Be comforted knowing you are not an orphan, but a precious child of God. Close your eyes and give praise to God because you belong to him and he belongs to you.

**DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE AN EVENT, CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUEST, OR PRAISE REPORT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S PRAYER GUIDE OR OTHER GCI PUBLICATIONS?**

**Please email [info@gci.org](mailto:info@gci.org) with details and photos.**