

# DECEMBER 2022 PRAYER GUIDE

**“And we pray, not for new earth or heaven, but to be quiet in heart, and in eye clear. What we need is here.” — Wendell Berry**

## **1 SURREY HILLS, OKLAHOMA, US**

Jesus, we thank you for the good news of your incarnation. As we sponsor our neighborhood Christmas parade, may the story of your love and acceptance be told in personal and meaningful ways to all who participate.

## **2 MECHANICSVILLE, VIRGINIA, US**

Lord, have your way with our relaunch plan for this Christmas, as we follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to move from a commuter to community church. Give us wisdom in discerning our target community. Jesus, may our love for you, our neighbors, and one another grow throughout the process.



## **3 GCI-HOME OFFICE**

Lord, we are holding our Emergent Generations Summit with expectancy of good things. We thank you that your promises are true from generation to generation. We ask for your guidance and wisdom over this small group of youth and young adult leaders gathering to discern how to join you in ministry alongside emergent generations in their contexts.

## **4 ADVENT PRAYER**

Precious Jesus, you are our hope in this messy world. Fill this Christmas season with anticipation and preparation for your kingdom – when all will be well! We place our hope in you as we celebrate your incarnation.

## **5 MEDITATION MONDAY: ROMANS 15:13 (NLT)**

Because we have such hope in Jesus, we are able to face the difficulties of life with expectancy, looking forward to what God may do in the midst of them. God has poured his peace into our hearts by his Spirit and when we awoken to this reality, we find that even in the midst of the most trying circumstances, we have an inner calmness and tranquility that is heaven-born. Are you facing something that has filled your heart with anxiety or fear? Sit in stillness for a time and ask Jesus to reveal himself to you. Allow his Spirit to fill you with peace.



# DECEMBER 2022



## 6 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Father, thank you for your love that permeates our precious fellowship. We are anticipating a Spirit-filled gathering for our Denominational Celebration in July 2023. As we worship together, continue to knit together our body, and help us to invite others into joyful union with you.

Registration for the Celebration opens today. Visit [gci.org/DC/dc2023](https://gci.org/DC/dc2023) for more information.

## 7 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

We are celebrating the commissioning of Audie Santibanez as Deputy National Director. We are delighted he answered the Lord's call to serve. May the Lord bless and equip him for his new role.

## 8 CINCINNATI, OHIO, US

Father in heaven, we praise you for who you are. May we reflect on your inclusive nature this week as we host a craft fair on our church campus. May attendees feel your deep love and welcoming presence throughout the event.



## 9 FT WAYNE, INDIANA, US

We rejoice over the opportunity to engage with our neighbors through our Elves Workshop Christmas community engagement event. We ask for continued prayers as we build connections and share the love of Christ with those he has called us to serve.

## 10 CARINA, AUSTRALIA

Join us in praying for our Christmas caroling event. We ask that the Lord's presence will be felt by those who sing and those who listen, and that it will be a joyful time for all. May our team be aware of the opportunities provided by the Spirit to build relationships and share hope.

## 11 ADVENT PRAYER

Jesus, knowing that you are Emmanuel, God with us, is the joy we celebrate during this season. May we feel your presence in everyday moments.

## 12 MEDITATION MONDAY: ISAIAH 35:10(NLT)

God gave us a cosmos filled with spectacular and stunning beauty, majesty and delight. Our creative capacity as human beings enables us to fill our world and our lives with a myriad of marvels which occupy our attention and interest. Is it possible that we are so busy seeking pleasure, we are missing joy? Jesus had great joy, even in facing the shame and suffering of the cross so we could share in his personal relationship with his Father in the Spirit. Today, ask Jesus to enable you to experience his joy. Then attend to the moments of joy you experience throughout the day and thank him for them.

## 13 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, US

We are praising God for the commissioning of our new pastoral team. Teach them, Lord, to serve you, seek rest in you, and to do your will. May your love and grace overflow through them into the life of the congregation and the neighborhood.

## 14 GCI-ZIMBABWE

Our loving Father, we thank you for our faithful fellowship in Zimbabwe and their recent Family Festival Celebration, that had more than 200 members participating in person and virtually. Continue to guide the members as they shine your light and love into their community.

## 15 SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, US

Your Spirit fills heaven and earth and your word reaches the ends of the world. We celebrate the different nations represented in our congregation. It was a joyous occasion to celebrate our heritage and invite others from our neighborhood to participate. Connect us to you and one another. Show us how we can continue to participate in sharing your good news in our neighborhood.

## 16 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, US

God, we thank you for your divine blessings and for the gift of fellowship. We celebrate a successful church picnic that helped boost joy and participation in the church, extending fellowship to others in the community through their families and contacts.

## 17 PRAYER OF COMFORT

This time of year can be one of joy and also grief for many. Jesus, you felt the pains of loneliness while here on earth. Draw near to those who are missing a loved one or are feeling alone this Christmas. Wrap your loving arms around them and fill them with your presence.

## 18 ADVENT PRAYER

Father God, prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing the goodness of Jesus. Grant us courage and a real excitement to talk about the love that came down to earth and walked among us.

## 19 MEDITATION MONDAY: 1 SAMUEL 2:8A (NASB)

The love of God is profoundly expressed in his willingness to stoop down to our level and join us in our place in the dust. The Lord who created us from the dust, took on our human frame in the midst of our dusty world to raise us up to life in glory. He gives us, his created ones, the dignity of becoming children of our heavenly Father, to sit at his table face-to-face, in the Spirit, now and forever. Take a moment and ask the Spirit to show you someone in your life who needs to be embraced right where they are and loved. Ask, "Spirit, what would you have me do?"





## 20 CHRISTMAS WEEK PRAYER: LUKE 1:38 (ESV)

Mary spoke these words in response to God's invitation to her participate in bringing Jesus into the world. How could your yes make space for the goodness of God to be revealed in your life and the lives of those he has placed around you? Ask God to show you how he is inviting you to participate in his redemptive work. Perhaps through a word of encouragement or giving your time in service. Join with Mary in responding, "Let it be."

## 21 CHRISTMAS WEEK PRAYER: LUKE 2:1-7

In the hustle and bustle of many traveling to their hometowns for the census, Joseph and Mary found and made space for Jesus to be born in a stable. It is easy to be distracted by busyness, broken relationships, or blind ambitions – these take up space in our hearts and minds. Take time to reflect & pray today: "What is crowding Christ out of my heart this Advent season, and how can I begin to surrender it?" Let us make room for all Christ has to offer us.

## 22 CHRISTMAS WEEK PRAYER: LUKE 1:67-46

After giving up hope on having a child, Zechariah is filled with the Spirit after the birth of his son John the Baptist, who would continue to prophesy the long awaited Messiah. We also live in times that seem like God's promises and faithfulness to us are far off or delayed, but we can rest assured that we have a God who is working for the good of all of humanity, and always will! Take some time to reflect on how you have seen the Spirit move in your life this year. Like Zechariah, turn your reflections into a prayer of thanksgiving to our Loving God.

## 23 CHRISTMAS WEEK PRAYER

### LECTIO DIVINA - SLOWLY READ ISAIAH 9:6- 7 TWO OR THREE TIMES.

Read the passage one more time, what word or phrase sticks out to you. Meditate on this word or phrase. Respond to God who has been speaking to you through his word.



## 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

On the eve of the birth of Christ, may we be filled with wonder at the hope we have in Jesus. May we experience peace, knowing you are our Emmanuel. We ask for your hope, joy, and love to fill us afresh.

## 25 CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus, hope for the world. We are grateful for a God who is faithful in all things, and is faithful in coming to us. We cry out for a fresh awareness of who you are. We choose by faith to make the "good news of great joy" a reality in our own lives so that your light in our lives points others to you this Christmas. We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with you.

## 26 MEDITATION MONDAY: LUKE 2:10B-12 (NLT)

The incarnation means, in one sense, we have a God who is not indifferent to us. Instead, we have a God who has chosen to experience our worst and our best—to experience both what it means to be vulnerable and weak and to be celebrated and adored. He chose to cry tears and laugh out loud, and to take a nap when he was tired. Pause for a moment and reflect on what it means that Jesus is living a truly human life with you right now in the Spirit. Thank him for loving you enough to embrace all that it means to be human.

## 27 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, US

Jesus, we rejoice in your presence in our neighbors and neighborhood. We celebrate the relationships we made with 40 neighbors during our recent picnic. May all who attended invest in the relationships that were fostered

## 28 DERBY, KANSAS, US

For five years, we have nurtured a partnership with our local elementary school. Through the new initiative of a Bible Club and continuing to mentor the STEM club, we are excited to see the deep relationships that have developed through our partnership. Please join us in praying for continued opportunities to be and share the good news of Jesus with the children and families in our neighborhood.

## 29 DZALEKA, MALAWI

Lord, in you we see the beauty of community. We celebrate the community you are building in the Dzaleka refugee camp. Where we had almost 300 people attend our worship gathering last month. We pray for your mercy and protection on those in the camp. Bless those who work to bring them relief, and to inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts.

## 30 GLENDORA CALIFORNIA, US

Lord of all, in you alone dwells the fullness of wisdom and grace. We recognize your call on the life of Megan Molina and celebrate her commissioning as Hope Avenue Champion. Set her apart and form her for the ministry you have for her. May it be your faithfulness and love that empowers her in her ministry.

## 31 NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

God, we thank you that your mercies are new each day. As we enter into a new year, we take a moment to pause in your presence and reflect on this past year. Bring to mind the moments of your mercy and grace toward us. Reveal and remind us of the ways you've formed us to be more like you. We present to you the people we are becoming. Do in us what is essential to making us more like you in this upcoming year.

**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.**