



GRACE COMMUNION  
INTERNATIONAL

# JANUARY 2023 PRAYER GUIDE

“As to the ‘state of the world’ if we have time to hope and fear about it, we certainly have time to pray.” — C.S. Lewis

## 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

As a prayer, say aloud the Psalmist's words of praise.

Psalm 9:1-9 (NLV)

O Lord, our Lord, how great is Your name in all the earth. You have set Your shining-greatness above the heavens. Out of the mouth of children and babies, You have built up strength because of those who hate You, and to quiet those who fight against You. When I look up and think about Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in their place, what is man, that You think of him, the son of man that You care for him? You made him a little less than the angels and gave him a crown of greatness and honor. You made him to rule over the works of Your hands. You put all things under his feet: All sheep and cattle, all the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, and all that pass through the sea. O Lord, our Lord, how great is Your name in all the earth!

## 2 MEDITATION MONDAY: MICAH 5:2 (HCSB)

As we prepare for this season of Epiphany, let's step back for a moment. Approximately 700 years before the birth of Christ, the Prophet Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, a little, unimportant town about five miles south of Jerusalem. Interestingly, Micah is the only prophet to disclose the town where the Messiah would be born. This prophecy further goes on to reveal the divine nature of Jesus Christ as the One who's origin is "from eternity." The fulfillment of this prophecy is one of the most recognized and celebrated events in history. However, after 700 years, it is probable that some in Judea had started to lose hope and had grown lax in their eager expectation for their long-awaited Savior. As you ponder this scripture, ask God if there are areas in your life where you have grown spiritually lax. Lord, help us be ever mindful of you.



## 3 GCI RETIRING PASTORS

Loving Father, we are very grateful for the women and men who serve so faithfully in GCI. May your peace and joy surround those whose retirement begins in 2023. We pray they feel loved beyond measure.

# JANUARY 2023



## 4 APPLETON, WI, US

We thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to be a good neighbor. Please grant us discernment and perseverance in our ongoing engagement with the elementary school next door to our church.

## 5 SAN JOSE, CA, US

Thank you, God, for our new associate pastor, Bob, and his wife, Mona. What a blessing they are as hosts of our online service. We're grateful for a platform to engage our neighbors who cannot attend in-person church.

## 6 FEAST OF EPIPHANY ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, 1979)

## 7 THE ORCHARD

We are celebrating the latest cohort of graduates of this special program. Thank you, Jesus, for the facilitators of The Orchard, and bless the ongoing impact of this teaching opportunity as it is transitioned into a regional model in 2023.

## 8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Dear chosen One, we love you and adore you. We're grateful for your obedience to baptism as the vicarious man. In you, there is one baptism for all.

## 9 MEDITATION MONDAY: MATT 3:13-15

When Jesus first came to John to be baptized, John the Baptist rejects the idea, saying he is the one that needs to be baptized by Jesus. Why do you think John the Baptist resisted? Obviously, Jesus didn't need to repent of his sins. So why did Jesus even request to be baptized? Jesus did not need to be baptized for himself. He was baptized "for us"—for the sins of all humanity, past, present, and future—and he connects his humanity with our humanity. Through his act of baptism, Jesus repented on behalf of all humanity; the entire human race was cleansed and forgiven. Wow! What an incredible moment for John to be a part of... and he almost missed it. What extraordinary moment might we be missing by resisting what God is telling us to do?

## 10 HAMILTON, BERMUDA

We appreciate that we serve a God of creativity. Thank you for the creative platforms that allow us to engage our neighbors digitally. Please bless our online service and our ability to reach people more with the gospel.

## 11 NGONG, KENYA

What a joy to gather with sisters and brothers for a pastors and leaders conference last month. Thank you, Jesus, for these people who love you and love your Bride, the church. Strengthen them for the work ahead this year.

## 12 QUITMAN, GA, US

We're excited to see you, Spirit, move in our fellowship and community. Thank you for the invitation to participate in the neighborhood turkey dinner last year. May the relationships we initiated continue to be strengthened in this new year.

## 13 MORWELL, VICTORIA, AU

We're celebrating our first ever Christmas Eve service last month, and we're grateful for the guests who joined us. Spirit, help us to put down healthy roots in this community and bless the relationships that we are building with our neighbors.

## 14 GCI SUPERINTENDENTS

God of abundance and grace, you are faithful to provide loving leaders in GCI. Guard their steps and grant them peace beyond understanding as they bear the mantle of leadership. May they rest in the assurance that you, Jesus, build your church.

## 15 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Psalms 40:1-3

Epiphany Season reminds us that Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father. The Son of Man reveals, manifests the Father's heart for us. The Father is not angry with you. He inclines his ear to you and hears your cry. He puts a new song in your mouth.

## 16 MEDITATION MONDAY: MATT 2: 3-5A (BSB)

After his meeting with the Magi, King Herod was troubled and called the chief priests and teachers of the law and asked them, "Where is the Messiah to be born?" They told him he was prophesied to be born "in Bethlehem of Judea," basing their answer on Micah 5:2. If the Scribes and Pharisees knew the prophecy and the supposed birthplace of the coming Messiah, why weren't they the first ones to race to Bethlehem to verify this long-awaited good news? Had they begun to distrust the prophecy? Had they become a little too complacent in their positions of religious authority? Are there areas in your life where you have allowed distrust or complacency to creep in? Lord, reveal to us any places in our heart where we have been tempted to doubt your Word.

## 17 DEI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Triune God, you are a God of inclusion. May we bear your image as a people who embrace justice. Thank you for the women and men who serve on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council.

## 18 GLENDORA, CA, US

We're celebrating the Christmas Live Nativity we performed in our neighborhood last month. May our neighbors come to know us as generous people who are compelled by Christ's love. Grant us discernment for how best to love and serve our community.

## 19 CANADIAN VISION PASTORS

Thank you, Father, for the dedication of your Vision Team pastors in Canada. May their monthly meetings be filled with inspired sharing about healthy church and Avenue engagement. Grant National Director Bill Hall wisdom as he leads them.







BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES

## 20 WOODBURY, PA, US

God, help us build on the momentum from celebrating Advent. We're grateful for the neighborhood guests who attended our Christmas party. Teach us how to continue to engage them, Spirit.

## 21 DENOMINATIONAL CELEBRATION

We are preparing for a meaningful celebration for all ages. Grant discernment to our children and teen leaders. May the young people who attend feel valued and seen and grant us the volunteers we need for a successful gathering.

## 22 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Psalm 27:1-4

Jesus, you are the epiphany, the manifestation of above! You have revealed the Father to be our light and salvation. Whom then shall we fear? Thank you for being my stronghold. You are a beauty to behold! And I seek to live in you all the days of my life.

## 23 MEDITATION MONDAY: MATT 2:1-2 (BSB)

The word "epiphany" means manifestation. Epiphany is about God showing himself to us. With the celebration of the Feast of Epiphany, we remember the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus. The Magi are from the East and signify the manifestation of Christ as Savior to all the nations. This image of foreigners worshipping Jesus is a clear picture of the gospel. Though Jesus was born King of the Jews, his birth heralds the good news that his redemptive mission encompasses both Jew and Gentile. Jesus did not confine himself to a group of favored people; he came to reveal to us that God's love is for ALL the people of the earth. Take a moment to sit with unconditional love. Is there anyone in your life that is tough to love right now? Ask Jesus to share with you his compassion for them. What does that look like for you?

## 24 BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES

Gracious God, we seek your will and direction as our congregation enters our week of prayer and fasting. May we hear your voice, Spirit. Direct our path and give us eyes to love our neighbors as you do. We're grateful that we can gather in person this year for this special week in the life of our fellowship.

## 25 LONDON, KY, US

Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunity to join you in loving our neighbors. We're grateful that you have shown us the needs in our surrounding neighborhood. Give us discernment as we continue to build relationships with senior housing complex nearby.

## 26 CHICHIRI, MALAWI

Jehovah Rapha, God who heals, we ask you to be with our members in Malawi where they are experiencing a Cholera outbreak. Protect our loved ones in GCI and all who are affected, as we know you love all your children equally. The rainy season can worsen the spread of infection. God, help us!

## 27 CHARLOTTE, NC, US

Join us in praying for the Steele Creek Church Plant team as they begin their two-day retreat. They are seeking the Spirit's guidance as they map out the next steps until they launch. May their love for God and for one another grow deeper.

## 28 ACCM

Our diploma program through ACCM is such a blessing! Thank you for the dedicated leadership of John McLean and the other lecturers. Jesus, may the ACCM courses continue to educate and equip our leaders and bear fruit. May the program be an ongoing blessing the Ghana MTC members.

## 29 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Micah 6:8

Father, conform me to your heart, as revealed in Jesus. You have told us what is good. Help me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Breath in: Love kindness

Breath out: Walk humbly

Repeat this breath prayer whenever you need a reminder of what is good.

## 30 MEDITATION MONDAY: MATT 1:10-12 (NLT)

The word epiphany is a Greek word referring to a "manifestation from above." It points to a divine remedy orchestrated in heaven and displayed on earth in the Incarnation. It is the Son of God revealed in Jesus Christ at his baptism. When the Father spoke from heaven and said, "You are my dearly loved Son," these words were spoken to the Son, Jesus, in his humanity. His humanity is our humanity. As such, the Father's words of love and acceptance expressed to Jesus were also spoken to us. Do you hear the Father calling you his beloved? Take a moment to soak in the revelation that you bring your heavenly Father great joy. Linger in the Father's love. You are his beloved child.

## 31 KENAI, AK, US

We're grateful for the continued ability to share our Hope Avenue service with a digital audience. Guide our efforts, Spirit, in 2023 and give us wisdom as we refine our efforts to reach our community through streaming the good news of Jesus.

**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.**



NGONG, KENYA