



GRACE COMMUNION
INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 2023

PRAYER GUIDE

"The baptized life ... is characterized by a prayerfulness that courageously keeps going, even when things are difficult and unpromising and unrewarding, simply because you cannot stop the urge to pray. Something keeps coming alive in you; never mind the results." — Rowan Williams

1 GLENDORA, CALIFORNIA, US

Jesus, it is your person and presence that compels us to love. We thank you for the recent carnival we hosted, and for the 200 guests who participated. We pray for the opportunity to continue to share the good news of who you are during our Easter service.

2 PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race, you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

3 MEDITATION MONDAY: MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

4 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son, you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*.

5 WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Lord God, whose blessed Son, our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

6 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*



7 GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

8 HOLY SATURDAY

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so may we await with him the coming of the third day and rise with him to newness of life, he who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

9 EASTER SUNDAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



10 MEDITATION MONDAY: 1 JOHN 4:10

The depth of God's love for us is truly astounding. He loved us before we ever loved him, and he proved that love by sending his Son to die for us. God's love is an unending wellspring that never runs dry, and it is available to us every moment of every day. Contemplate the magnitude of this sacrifice, and let your roots sink deep into the living water of Christ. God loved you long before this moment and he's going to love you for all the moments to come. How does knowing that make you feel? How might it change the way you respond to him today?

11 NAIROBI, KENYA

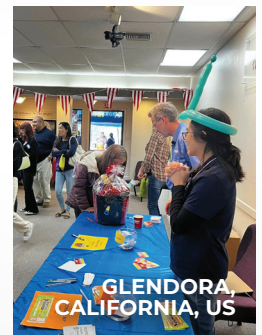
Pray for God's inspiration and presence in our regional conferences across Africa this month. Join us in lifting up our time together, that we will share joyful fellowship, best practices for ministry, and the love of our triune God with one another. May we abide in your love during our time together.

12 MALAWI & MOZAMBIQUE

Holy God, in whose perfect kingdom there is no pain, fear, or death. We pray for all who are affected by cyclone Freddy. May all who are hurting and mourning experience your comfort. Do what only you can do and bring about physical and emotional restoration.

13 LEEUWARDEN, NETHERLANDS

We praise our triune God for blessings we have experienced over the last ten years. As we celebrate our anniversary, we celebrate our growth from 20 members to 52 members with many youngsters and children. Join us in praying for peace and stability in the world because without it, it will be difficult to reach people with the word of God. Therefore, we pray that the rulers of this world (countries with much power) may rule the world with justice, love, and grace. We pray that God's light shine into their hearts and positively influence all their plans and decisions about the world and all humanity. The war has caused many casualties and instability. God, help the world's rulers to hear the cry of millions of innocent people and change their way of ruling.



14 CLEVELAND, OHIO, US

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.

15 AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Lord, we marvel at the ways you include us in your ministry. We thank you for the special time of fellowship, sharing our mission, as well as outlining opportunities to participate in church life during our 4 Es workshop last month. May our great God continue to form and grow us into the expression of church he is calling us to be.

16 BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Please join us in praying for the church leadership as we meet with Superintendent Heber Ticas to discuss healthy church rhythms for the next few days. Our prayer is from Philippians 1:9-11: "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

17 MEDITATION MONDAY: ROMANS 5:8 AMP

The passion of Christ is a reflection of God's immense love for all humanity, even in the midst of our brokenness and sin. He didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up or become perfect before extending his love and grace to us. Instead, he sent his Son to die for us, so that we might take hold of new life in him. Allow God's relentless and purifying love to transform you more into the likeness of Christ. Experience the freedom that comes with practicing confession and repentance, asking God and his unconditional love to reveal areas of sin in your life that you need to surrender to him.

18 OTHENO, UGANDA

Father God, we rejoiced in the move of your Spirit during our recent gathering of leaders from across our churches in East Africa. We ask that you continue to lead us forward, and that we will be equipped for the good work you have for each leader.

19 SURREY HILLS, OKLAHOMA, US

We are grateful to be able to serve our neighborhood. We gathered and donated 2,000 pounds of food to the residents at the Surrey Hills Estates. Join us in praying that the deeper relationships with Christ and our neighbors will be formed through their experience of your love.



20 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, US

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.

21 CINCINNATI, OHIO, US

We are celebrating the encouragement of the Lord as we witness our congregation being the church. We see people praying together often. We see them witnessing to family and friends. Oh, the joy of seeing the church come alive in Christ!

22 WOODBURY, PENNSYLVANIA, US

You are the God who breathed this world alive and sustains it day by day. We thank you for the ways we are experiencing your love through our missional activity. For the few months we have been delivering hot steam pans that provide both heat and food for members of our neighborhood. As we join you Jesus in ushering in the kingdom, fill us with compassion as we join in with the suffering of all who share our city. Grant us peace, favor, and wisdom as we invite our neighbors into deeper relationship with you.

23 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Creator, we are grateful for all our Avenue champions. Thank you for the gifts you have given them. Help them as they develop, equip, and lead the ministry workers on their team. May your love and grace overflow from them as they minister.

24 MEDITATION MONDAY: JOHN 3:16

We don't have to live very long to discover how messed up humans are. We are hurt people who inevitably hurt each other. How amazing is it that the God of the universe genuinely loves the people of this world, so much that God gives himself to us so that we might live with him forever? God doesn't leave us to die in our own destruction, but clearly and patiently shows us the way of renewal. Practice resurrection this Easter season by obeying Christ's call to love our neighbors and our enemies. Share the love of Christ with someone else, with your words and actions, as a way of reflecting the great love that God has shown us.



25 PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY, US

Heavenly Father, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We pray for those who received the Easter baskets our Faith Avenue gave to neighbors. May all who received a basket know that this gift is a tangible example of your love and care for them.

26 HOUSTON, TEXAS, US

We are celebrating the new women's connect group. We ask that you join us in praying for God's presence to be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with him and one another.

27 TANZANIA

Loving God, we pray your blessings upon the nine newly ordained elders in our fellowship. May their souls be refreshed with the love of Christ. Fill them with faith for the future.

28 MONTERREY, MEXICO

God, who has called us into being through love, it is good and pleasant when your people join together in unity. We thank you for the Faith, Hope, and Love in Action workshop. Holy Spirit, continue to lead us in your flow of worship and unite our teams to work together efficiently. Bless all those who attended, equip us to be the church in our neighborhoods.

29 GRACE COMMUNION MINISTRY TEAMS

Gracious God, it is a joy to join in your ministry. We thank you for all the volunteers who have answered your call to serve in GCI congregations. We ask that you sustain them, and may they experience your love in meaningful ways. We pray for fresh starts after a year of many new challenges. Fill your people anew with energy and passion for your name.

30 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Today we pray for the upcoming generation. Give them hope and a future. Remind these young people that no matter what their circumstances are, you knew and planned for them before they were even born. Give them the passion to live with a deep sense of purpose as your beloved children.

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 WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS.



*Holy Week Prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer: Episcopal Church. (1979). The Book of common prayer and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the church: together with the Psalter or Psalms of David according to the use of the Episcopal Church. New York: Seabury Press.