

MAY 2023

PRAYER GUIDE

“Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails.” — Barbara Brown Taylor

1 MEDITATION MONDAY: ACTS 7:55

In his last moments, Stephen was given a vision of Jesus standing at God’s right hand. This was the Jesus they had known and loved, whom they had touched, and had talked and eaten with. In this moment of crisis in Stephen’s life, he was included in Jesus’ own human life with the Father in the Spirit. This gave him the faith and courage to offer forgiveness to those who would stone him, and to intercede on their behalf. Today, knowing that Jesus bears your struggles in his own relationship with the Father, how will you offer his grace to others?

2 GCI-EUROPE

Loving Father, we praise you for who you are and for the ways you have invited us into relationship with you. The beauty of who you are was evident during our retreat with leaders from Holland and the UK last month. Jesus, our high priest, we thank you that we are united with you and invited into your mission of ushering in the kingdom. Holy Spirit, continue to equip and empower us to participate in the ministry you have prepared for us.

3 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, US

We are rejoicing over the six baptisms that we celebrated last month. We pray that our new members and church family will continue to grow in faith.

4 GCI – USA: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Awesome God, we look to you and you alone for our hope. Help us to answer your call to love one another as you have loved us. Help us to be your instruments of peace, seeking unity always, in our circles of influence, country, and in our global regions.

5 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, US

We thank you, Jesus, for the ways you meet our needs and answer our prayers. We are grateful for the facility you have provided for our congregation to gather in for worship. As we engage with our new neighbors, help us to see the unique ways they bear your image and guide us to be curious in discovering how you are working in their lives.





6 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

7 GCI VOLUNTEERS

Jesus, we thank you for the ways you have gifted each of us as a priesthood of believers. Strengthen and sustain us as we serve in our congregations and neighborhoods. May your Spirit fill us with joy, as we share in your ministry of living and sharing the gospel.



8 MEDITATION MONDAY: 1 PETER 3:17-18

One of the things with which we wrestle in life is the injustice of suffering when we are doing our best to be loving, gracious, and kind. The apostle Peter reminds us that this experience is not unique to us—it is the very experience Jesus embraced during his time here on earth. Our comfort is in the reality that, even now in glory, he shares our human flesh, and whatever happens to us, he bears as if it were his own. How is your current experience of suffering changed by knowing Jesus is going with you through this experience?

9 CAPETOWN SOUTH, RSA

Our loving Father, we thank you for our faithful fellowship in the Republic of South Africa, which celebrated our anniversary. Continue to guide the members as they shine your light and love into their community.

10 SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, US

Risen Christ, we celebrate your victory over sin and death. We pray for all who attended our Easter sunrise service. We pray that you continue to turn our sorrow into joy. That as we experience new life in you, we will share the good news of who you are with those you place in our lives.



11 FT. WAYNE, INDIANA, US

Join us in praying for our new small group. We have meaningful conversations about life as we search for answers together from the truth of God's word. We pray that through this time together we will encourage one another and draw closer to Jesus.

12 MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA, US

God of love, we thank you for the gift of life and for the young ones in our fellowship. What a gift it is to dedicate our newest addition, born this year. Our congregation celebrates the dedication we were blessed to participate in.

13 RAYONG, THAILAND

Jesus, thank you for the wonderful gift of life. We celebrate the two baptisms within our congregation last month. Bless our newly baptized members with your presence, mercy, and grace.

14 MOTHERS DAY

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

15 MEDITATION MONDAY: ACTS 1:14

When Jesus' followers saw him ascend into glory, they experienced a profound change in their everyday relationship with their Lord and Savior. They discovered their devotion wasn't to a religion or dogma, but to a Person, Jesus Christ, for by the Spirit they were immersed in his own relationship with his heavenly Father. Their ongoing conversation with their Lord affected their daily life, moving them to gather together in warm fellowship with one another and to pray. How might the Spirit be inviting you today to join in with Jesus' own conversation with his Father in the Spirit through prayer?

16 GRACE COMMUNION SEMINARY

As a new semester starts this week, Lord, we pray for the newly enrolled students. Grant them peace, love, and grace as they add schoolwork into their daily responsibilities. Inspire and equip them to apply what they learn to serve you.

17 KENOCKEE, MICHIGAN, US

We are delighted to report the baptism of two new members. We join together in congratulating them and extending them a hearty welcome into the church family.

18 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. Psalm 93:1-2

Inspire us to share your love in word and deed, according to your will.

19 SURREY HILLS, OKLAHOMA, US

Faithful Father, we thank you for our ministry teams who faithfully serve our congregation. We thank you for the joy you give us in working together, but also in encouraging one another. We thank you for the fun memories we made during our recent progressive dinner. We pray for a continued unity and affinity for one another as we intentionally build relationship with you and one another.



20 MOOROOLBARK, VICTORIA, AU

Lord, you have called us to be participate in sharing your light and love with our neighbors. We thank you for eight newly commissioned mentors, who will serve youth in our local school. We ask that you strengthen them and that your presence with them will bring peace and joy to the kids they share your life with.

21 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.

22 MEDITATION MONDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

You are the recipient of every perfect gift from our heavenly Father, no matter how difficult, painful, or stressful life may be for you right now. God has always meant for you to be a blessing to others, in that way in which you are uniquely crafted by him. What seems to just pour out from you that is an expression of God's love and grace, of his care for this planet and its people? It may very well be that same quality with which you are to bless others. What can you do today to allow God's Spirit free reign in using his precious gift in you to serve others?

23 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Energy is building around the upcoming virtual Denominational Celebration. We are excited about the opportunity for 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.

24 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Holy Spirit, we thank you for your presence in our midst during our recent worship team retreat. We praise God for his provision for an encouraging and restorative time. We pray that our time together will bring transformation to our lives and through our worship ministry.



MANILA, PHILIPPINES

25 SOUTH KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, US

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

26 GROVE CITY, OHIO, US

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

27 GCI

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

28 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.

29 MEDITATION MONDAY: ACTS 2:3-4 (NRSVA)

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.

30 GRACE COMMUNION MALAYSIA

Let us remember our co-laborers in Malaysia 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

31 BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES

Please join us in praying for our youth group. May all who participate experience their Father's love, be open to his call for their lives, and experience a sense of belonging.

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.



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA