

DECEMBER 2023

# PRAYER GUIDE

Prayer is not constant positivity. It is honesty held in our hands and hurled at the sky.

– K.J. Ramsey

## 1 COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA, US

We offer heartfelt praise for the joyous gathering at our annual Friends & Family Day, where 100 neighbors came together on our church lawn to enjoy a day filled with laughter, petting zoos, hayrides, games, and shared meals. As we cherish these moments of community, we earnestly pray for deeper connections and relationships to blossom among all who gathered, fostering bonds that reflect the love and unity you create.

## 2 LA HUACA, PERU

Giver of life, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the baptism of three beloved members into your sacred embrace. May the grace of the Father's love, the redemption of the Son's sacrifice, and the guidance of the Spirit's wisdom dwell richly within them, as they journey forth in faith.

## 3 ADVENT HOPE

Gracious God, as we enter a new liturgical year and this Advent week of hope, we reflect on the profound meaning of this season—the anticipation of your Incarnation, the dawn of light in our waiting hearts. May the flickering flames of hope illuminate our paths, reminding us of the special promise kept when Jesus was born, bringing joy and saving us. May the hope of Advent inspire us to embody the spirit of anticipation, embracing the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.

## 4 REVELATION 21:3 NIV

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian calendar and reminds us of Christ's coming to us in the past, present, and future. The Bible illustrates the great true story of God's arrival on earth in the Incarnation, the arrival of his very Spirit within his followers, and the future hope of God's final advent in the glorious marriage of heaven and earth. The Bible ends with the sure hope of a new beginning, the greatest image of new creation and cosmic renewal. Reflect on Revelation 21:1-22:5. How does this description of Jesus' future reign speak to your deepest longings?

## 5 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, US

With thanksgiving, we remember the recent commemoration of our congregation's tenth anniversary. We thank you for the countless blessings, guidance, and growth we've experienced as a community. As we reflect on our past and look to the future, we pray for your continued presence and grace to sustain us in our mission to serve and worship together. May our congregation continue to be a source of love, hope, and support for all who come through our doors.

## 6 BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Loving God, we lift our hearts in profound praise as we celebrate the baptism of nine of your beloved children this year. Thank you for the faith that has brought them to this sacred moment and for the promise of new life in Christ. May your Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect them, nurturing the seeds of faith sown at their baptisms, and may their lives be a testament to your grace and love.





## 7 LADSON, SOUTH CAROLINA, US

We offer praise for the Love Avenue event where approximately 80 church members and neighbors gathered in joyous unity. Bless the bonds forged through shared activities and the warmth of fellowship, as we celebrate the spirit of community and the simple joys of good food enjoyed in the company of kindred spirits. Grant us the grace for more opportunities to extend kindness, build connections with our neighbors.

## 8 SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, US

Compassionate Lord, we express gratitude for the transformative impact of our recent women's conference. Grant us ongoing guidance and strength to integrate the lessons gained into our everyday lives. May the connections formed during this event serve as a sustaining source of support and encouragement for each of us.

## 9 GCI-ZIMBABWE

We celebrate the ordination of Sumbya Ekyamba, Vuyile Mpofu, and Rodrick Mandibatsira. Grant them wisdom, strength, and unwavering faith as they embark on this new journey of ministry. May your Holy Spirit guide their every step, empowering them to be a source of inspiration and guidance to all they serve. We ask for your blessings and anointing upon them, that they may faithfully carry out your work and bring glory to your name.

## 10 ADVENT PEACE

In this Advent week of peace, we thank you for the promise fulfilled in Jesus, a fulfillment of ancient prophecies that bring tranquility to our hearts. As we await the celebration of his first coming, we also long for the day when he will come again, bringing lasting peace to our world. May the assurance of your fulfilled promises and the anticipation of Jesus' return fill our hearts with the peace that surpasses all understanding.

## 11 ISAIAH 40:3 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

The busyness of this time of year can make it difficult for us to reflect on and receive the true message of Christmas. Our experience of these weeks of Advent can vary widely, from getting caught up in the festive atmosphere to feeling the emotional weight of these days. We may be experiencing a spiritual desert where we are thirsty for an oasis of peace and rest with the Lord. God wants to remove the obstacles that may be getting in the way of your communion with him. As you prepare your heart to receive from God this Advent, may this sacred time give you permission to be countercultural. Set aside a block of quiet time this week to prioritize being alone with God and listen for what he wants to say to you.

## 12 GCI-NEPAL

Gracious God, we gather with hearts filled with joy and gratitude for the two precious souls who responded to your loving embrace and were baptized. We celebrate the new life they have found in Christ and the promise of redemption that baptism symbolizes. May their journeys be filled with faith, hope, and love, and may their lives be a shining testament to your grace.

## 13 SURREY HILLS, OKLAHOMA, US

God, we bring before you our Love Avenue team's plans for a Christmas parade and community activities. We pray for the success of these endeavors, that they may not only bring joy to our community but also serve as a reflection of the love and generosity exemplified by Christ during this season. May the acts of kindness, shared cookies, and the embrace of community create a lasting impact, especially as we extend our care to those facing hardships, ensuring that the love of Christ shines brightly in our midst.

## 14 LOGAN, AUSTRALIA

God of presence and grace, we seek your blessings upon our upcoming neighborhood Christmas event on this coming Saturday. May your spirit of joy and unity pervade the gathering, fostering connections and spreading warmth as we come together to celebrate the Christmas season.

## 15 COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA, US

God, who supplies our every need, we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in College Park who, alongside neighbors and the Atlanta Hawks, worked to help those in their community suffering from food insecurity. Together they packed one million boxes of food, providing nourishment for a million in need. May this act of community inspire lasting unity and shared commitment to eradicating hunger.



## 16 GLENDORA, CALIFORNIA, US

Heavenly Father, we seek your blessings and guiding presence at our live nativity, a neighborhood Christmas event. May the depiction of the story of Jesus' arrival bring a sense of awe and unity, allowing your divine light to shine through and touch the hearts of all who witness this meaningful celebration.

## 17 ADVENT JOY

In this Advent week of joy, our spirits lift with the approaching birth of Jesus, our Savior. As anticipation fills our hearts, may the increasing joy within us echo the profound happiness brought by the fulfillment of the promise in his imminent birth.

## 18 JOHN 1:14A NIV

Consider this inspiring quote: "Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God." Just as courage is not the absence of fear but rather the awareness that something is more important than the fear, joy is the awareness that something (or someone) is more important than the suffering itself—the very presence of God with us. How amazing it is that the living Word, the rational principle behind the universe, became one of us so that we might know him! Read Luke 2:1-7 alongside Matthew 1:23 and John 1:14. How does the Nativity account shape your view of Christ as Immanuel, God with us? Receive the joy of God's presence with you here and now.

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## 19 GCI-MALAWI

Gracious God, in perfect assurance of Your presence among us, we pray your blessings upon Anthony Nyangulu, Carolyn Itimu, Bunnet Kazembe, Chirstopher Chakana, Kafulesi Nkosi, Timothy Mphamba, and Chrissy Mankhomw as we celebrate their ordinations. May they honor you with joy as they step into the ministries prepared for each of them.

## 20 GCI-ZAMBIA

Heavenly Father, with grateful hearts, we celebrate the recent eight baptisms and those who were washed by your grace. May their journey in faith be marked by an ever-deepening connection with you, and may our fellowship continue to support and uplift them on their journey with you.

## 21 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, US

Loving God, as we come together for this Teen Christmas party, we invite your joyous presence to fill our hearts with the warmth of celebration. Bless this gathering, deepening our connections with Christ and each other, making this event not only festive but also a meaningful step in our journey of faith and fellowship.

## 22 FLINT, MICHIGAN, US

Generous Father, thank you for the opportunity to provide dozens of backpacks and school supplies to students! Thank you for the generosity of our members who have helped purchase over 70 winter coats for kids who don't have one! We pray it makes a difference in the local community!

## 23 HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, US

Emmanuel, God with us, we ask your blessing upon our Christmas concert this evening. May lives be transformed through worship, and let the magnification of Christ's presence be the guiding light, igniting your abiding joy in the hearts of all who attend.

## 24 ADVENT LOVE & CHRISTMAS EVE

Loving God, on this special day that marks both the Advent week of love and the joyous celebration of Christmas Eve, we rejoice in the extraordinary gift of Jesus, embodying your boundless love for the entire world. As we prepare our hearts for his coming, we also delight in the anticipation of the night when he first graced the world with his presence. May the warmth of your love inspire us to share kindness, compassion, and love with others, as we joyfully celebrate the convergence of love and Christmas on this sacred occasion.



## 25 JOHN 1:4-5 NLT

God so loved his creation that he did not allow it to succumb to the full destruction of its own making. Though the world no longer knew or recognized who their Creator was, our God was relentless to pursue his children wandering in the darkness. As the darkness of this present age seems to grow darker, may the church shine the light of her Redeemer ever more brightly. Meditate on John 1:1-18 and Philippians 2:5-11, reflecting on the meaning of the Incarnation. How do you desire to respond to God? How will you shine Christ's light into your spheres of influence?

## 26 GCI-ZAMBIA

Sovereign Lord, we celebrate the commissioning of Thabo Sebolai and Kelebogile Simcha Molusi-Sebolai as new ministry leaders. May your blessings accompany them in their ministry guiding their service with wisdom, compassion, and a deep connection to you.

## 27 WOODBINE, GEORGIA, US

You who are the source of all love, we thank you for the joy experienced during our Family Fun Day, where more than 100 neighbors gathered. As we celebrate the laughter shared over pony rides and a bounce house, we also acknowledge the unexpected delight found in the simple joy of playing musical chairs. May the spirit of joy continue to bind us together, fostering deeper connections among all who participated in this heartwarming neighborhood event.





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## 28 LA HUACA, PERU

Gracious and Eternal God, we are grateful for the renewal being experienced by our faithful congregation in La Huaca. The growth from missional events, the ability to enlarge the church facility, and the new lives transformed by you are a testimony to your presence. We ask for a continued experience of the fruit of your Spirit and of renewal.

## 29 GCI-INDIA

Unchanging one, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of our congregation, we express gratitude for the foundation of faith and fellowship that you have laid. Grant us ongoing opportunities to be living expressions of the gospel in our neighborhood.

## 30 GCI-RSA

Loving Creator, we lift our hearts in praise for the sacred moment of two baptisms, where lives are symbolically washed anew in your boundless love. May the ripples of this joyous occasion echo through the hearts of those baptized, and throughout our congregation.

## 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gracious God, as we stand on the threshold of a new calendar year on this Eve of new beginnings, we seek your guidance and presence. Bless us with wisdom and strength for the journey ahead, and may your light illuminate our path throughout the coming year.



**Would your church like to be included in a future Prayer Guide?**

**PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@GCI.ORG](mailto:INFO@GCI.ORG) WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS.**