



**“The movement in our relationship to God is always from God to us. Always. We can’t, through our piety or goodness, move closer to God. God is always coming near to us.” — Nadia Bolz-Weber**

## 1 MATTHEW 2:10-11A

As we begin another year, let us seek opportunities to be overwhelmed with joy. Let’s be honest. We can easily be overwhelmed by negative, unhealthy, and stressful circumstances. The magi truly were wise men who recognized the divine wisdom of God, which led them to follow the star leading to the Messiah. They did not allow their surroundings or circumstances to overwhelm their journey. Yes, they likely endured much as they travelled the land. Their anticipation was made whole, though, when they were in the presence of the Messiah. Choosing to focus on the present moment with the child and his mother, Mary, the magi were overwhelmed with joy and spent time with Jesus. As you journey through this new year, enduring whatever life may bring (or fling!) your way, may you be overwhelmed by joy and spend time with Jesus.

## 2 NEW YEAR’S PRAYER

On the threshold of a new year, we are filled with gratitude for the gift of life and opportunities that lie ahead. Fill us with wisdom to navigate the unknown path that the coming days hold and the strength to face challenges with courage and resilience. May your guiding light illuminate our journey, leading us towards purpose and fulfillment. Amen.

## 3 MARTINIQUE

In the spirit of celebration, we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for your faithfulness to our congregation for six decades. We acknowledge God’s unwavering presence in guiding our community through challenges and triumphs alike. With hearts filled with gratitude, we celebrate the faithfulness and dedication of each member who has contributed to the vibrancy of our church family. As we reflect on the past and look to the future, we ask for Christ’s continued grace to lead us in fulfilling his purpose for this congregation.

## 4 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, US

Gracious God, thank you for the warmth of fellowship, the laughter, and the bonds of friendship that were strengthened during our Christmas brunch. May the memories of that day continue to inspire and uplift us, serving as a reminder of the love and support found within our church family.

## 5 GLENDORA, CALIFORNIA, US

Emmanuel, we celebrate the opportunity to join you in sharing your love with all the children of the world. We experienced deep joy as we gathered supplies and put together shoe boxes for children in need. May these shoeboxes be instruments of hope, peace, and joy, echoing the boundless love that Jesus has bestowed upon us.

## 6 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60:1 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)



**GRACE COMMUNION**  
INTERNATIONAL





## 7 BAPTISM OF THE 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.

## 8 MARK 1:10

Jesus came so everyone could know God the Father. Jesus was baptized so all could know God's great love for them and experience life with him like never before. This is a profound message we are gifted to share, yet sometimes we lose sight of the individual within humanity. Sometimes, we look at a person, beloved of God, and only see what's wrong, or we judge what we believe to be "not right." And yet, Jesus came so that same person could know God's love and experience life in abundance with him. What if you took another look, a deeper glance at the one you have misjudged? May you accept this promise: God made no mistake in creating humans in his image. May we seek to find God's reflection in those around us. May we strive to be God's reflection to those around us; that all might know God's love for them.

## 9 GCI-ASIA

God of love, as our community of practice for our churches in Asia gather today, we ask for your guidance over their time together. May their minds be open to innovative ideas, and their hearts be receptive to your leadership. Equip them with the tools and resources needed to strengthen our churches and serve our congregations effectively. May this time together be marked by a deep sense of purpose and a shared commitment to spreading your love and grace throughout Asia.

## 10 GCI CONGREGATIONS

Jesus, you are the good shepherd. We pray that you inspire our pastors and leaders with your vision for each flock. Give them eyes to see your provision and ears to hear where their communities are calling in need. Lead our congregations where you would have us go.

## 11 HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA, US

With hearts brimming with gratitude, we celebrate the joyous participation of our congregation in our town's Christmas parade. Thank you for the unity, creativity, and festive spirit that brought us together as a community, shining your light amidst the holiday festivities. Grant us, O Lord, the grace for our congregation to continue to find avenues to joyfully connect with our neighbors.

## 12 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, US

We rejoice in the privilege of uniting with you to extend your love to children across the globe. May our prayers for the recipients amplify the impact of these humble gifts. We trust that, through the intercession of our prayers, the love of Jesus will resonate deeply in the hearts of those who receive these shoeboxes.



## 13 SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Holy One, we humbly seek your blessing on the ordination of Ayuba Alimasi. Grant him wisdom, strength, and unwavering faith as he dedicates his life in service to your people. May your Spirit guide his path, and may his work be a reflection of your love and grace.

## 14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Psalm 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.

## 15 PSALM 139:14

When you take a picture of a sunrise, sunset, or beautiful landscape, the picture often doesn't capture the fullness of reality. We don't say "the sky was dull that day," or "the grass wasn't as green as before," blaming the subject for what the picture lacks. The camera is most often unable to capture all the beauty held within the reality we can see around us. The same goes for you, dear beloved. Today's cameras (and mirrors!) cannot capture all the beauty held within the reality of who God made you to be. Next time you look at a picture (or reflection) of yourself, remember this psalm. You are a wonderful work of God, fearfully and wonderfully made. Nothing on earth can capture the fullness of this reality. May you receive this divine reminder of your worth and share it with others who need to remember their worth as well.

## 16 PASIG, PHILIPPINES

Compassionate Creator, thank you for the privilege of lifting our voices in unison, seeking your presence, and experiencing the depth of your love together as your bride. Empower us, O God, with the courage and compassion needed to carry the love of Christ beyond these walls. May our actions and words reflect the grace we have received, becoming beacons of hope and light in the lives of those we encounter.

## 17 NAIVASHA, KENYA

Loving Father, we're thankful for the chance to spread your light and love through our recent youth camp. As we celebrate the success of this camp, we ask for your ongoing guidance and provision. We want to create more opportunities to support these children and families as they learn about your word and strengthen their relationship with you. Open doors for us to build engaging, relevant, and transformative relationships with them.

# JANUARY 2024



## 18 ARIMA, TRINIDAD

In joy and unity, we give thanks for our celebration for Creole Heritage month. Thank you for the precious opportunity to come together in fellowship, embracing the richness of our differences and the strength found in our shared faith. May our unity in Christ be an example of the peace and harmony found in you.

## 19 GCI-AFRICA

Lord, we thank you for the opportunity for the gathering of regional directors in Africa for the annual retreat. We celebrate the wisdom exchanged, the challenges faced together, and the victories joyfully shared. Bless these leaders with continued passion for their ministries and a deepened commitment to serving your people throughout the region. May the impact of the retreat ripple through their ongoing work, bringing glory to your name.

## 20 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.

## 21 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.

## 22 MARK 1:15

The gospel of Christ is good news worth sharing! Jesus has conquered evil and brought the kingdom of God into our present lives. As our Savior has done, do we also seek to shine the light of God's kingdom into our present life circumstances through loving those around us? Are we repenting, changing our ways, to be more obedient to God's will in our choices and decisions? Are we believing in the good news, which is for all humanity, and showing love and joy whenever possible? Take time to reflect on how the message you share with your daily living matches the message from Jesus. Make changes as the Spirit convicts and rejoice as the Spirit confirms.

## 23 GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

We rejoice with you, Jesus, and celebrate the two baptisms in our congregation last month. As they emerge from the depths, may your Holy Spirit infuse them with strength, courage, and unwavering devotion. May their lives be testimonies of your redeeming love.



## 24 GCI-US 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.

## 25 TORONTO EAST, CANADA

God of Mercy, we celebrate the unity and fellowship that binds us as a congregation, acknowledging the power of your Spirit that moves among us. Strengthen us to be ambassadors of your mercy, extending the invitation to all to join in the joyous celebration of your grace.

## 26 LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY, US

We celebrate the ordination of Howard Klein. Grant him wisdom, strength, and unwavering faith as he embarks on this new journey of ministry. May your Holy Spirit guide his every step, empowering him to be a source of inspiration and guidance to all he serves.

We ask for your blessings and anointing upon him, that he may faithfully carry out your work and bring glory to your name.

## 27 FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE INTEGRATED

As we enter 2024, guide us in living out Faith, Hope, and Love Integrated in our denomination. May our ministry reflect a holistic and interconnected approach, mirroring the unity of the Father, Son, and Spirit. In the coming year, we affirm Christ as our unwavering foundation. His first love compels us to be faithful witnesses, sharing the transformative power of his love. By your Spirit, empower us for great commandment living and great commission sharing. As our ultimate source of hope, may our actions be rooted in Christ.

## 28 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

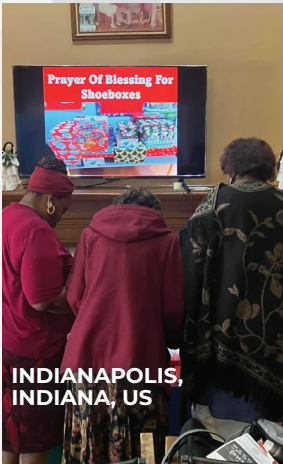
Micah 6:8  
Father, conform me to your heart, as revealed in Jesus. You have told us what is good. Help me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Breath in: Love kindness.  
Breath out: Walk humbly.

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







INDIANAPOLIS,  
INDIANA, US

## 29 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

Life can get quite messy at times. Accidents happen, circumstances change, situations become chaotic, and the free will of others can infuriate us as it clashes with our own. And yet, for us there is one God, from whom all things exist, and for whom we exist. Each day we draw breath is a day closer to Jesus' return, and another opportunity to live in the complex simplicity of life with God! Enjoy some moments today and throughout this year with Jesus. Reflect on how God made you. Make a list of how God has provided for you. Receive the ways God is pruning you and rejoice in your growth! Take time to do the same regarding those around you (especially when you clash). Reflect on how God made them. Make a list of how God has provided for them. Acknowledge God's presence in them and rejoice in their growth!

## 30 BIG SANDY, TEXAS, US

God of love, we thank you for partnerships you have developed within our community that have come together to bless Agape House this Christmas. Thank you for the generous individuals and organizations who have contributed food and toys, creating a spirit of love and abundance for families in need. We pray for the families who will receive these blessings, that they may experience the warmth of community and the joy of Christmas in the midst of any challenges they may face.

**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.**

## 31 STEELE CREEK, NORTH CAROLINA, US

Lord of life, we praise you for the baptism in our congregation celebrated last month. As we welcome our newly baptized member into our fellowship, we thank you once again for your gift of grace and the forgiveness you give each of us.



NAIVASHA,  
KENYA



NAIVASHA,  
KENYA



HANOVER,  
PENNSYLVANIA



HANOVER,  
PENNSYLVANIA



ARIMA,  
TRINIDAD



GLENDDORA,  
CALIFORNIA, US



FORT-DE-FRANCE,  
MARTINIQUE