# Prayer Guide





"Celebrating Advent means being able to wait. ... Whoever does not know the austere blessedness of waiting — that is, of hopefully doing without — will never experience the full blessing of fulfillment."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#### 1 Luke 1:78-79 NLT

During Advent, we anticipate the light of the world entering into our darkness of sin and death to bring us the grace and peace of the living God through the incarnation. There are times when we feel as though we are wandering about in darkness or in the valley of the shadow of death. We anticipate the coming of Jesus into these difficult circumstances even now by the Spirit, knowing Jesus' light of love and grace has already broken in on us and brought us to a new place of comfort and peace. Sit silently for a moment and reflect gratefully upon God's presence in your life and circumstances right now through Jesus in the Spirit.

#### GCI-Latin America

Faithful God, we thank you for calling Paulina Barrero to serve as Superintendent of Latin America. We rejoice in the gifts and wisdom you have placed in her and in her heart to lead with humility and grace. As she steps into this role, may your Spirit guide her every decision, strengthen her in moments of challenge, and fill her with joy in your service. Bless her leadership to be a source of unity, encouragement, and growth throughout the region.

# O3 Surrey Hills, Oklahoma, US

Lord of life, we rejoice with heaven over the seven lives made new through baptism. Thank you for calling each one by name and drawing them into your love and grace. May your Spirit guide them as they grow in faith and live as witnesses of your transforming power. Surround them with a supportive community and lead them deeper into your joy.







# 04 Grace Communion International

Gracious God, we give heartfelt thanks for the faithful service of Mike Morrison and the lifetime of ministry he has poured into Grace Communion International. Thank you for the wisdom he has shared, the lives he has impacted, and the steady presence he has offered through seasons of change and growth. May his legacy continue to bear fruit in the lives of those he has taught, mentored, and served. Bless him with joy, peace, and a deep awareness of your pleasure in his faithful stewardship.

#### 05 Mount Sterling, Kentucky, US

Loving Savior, we give thanks for the beautiful step of faith taken in baptism. Thank you for the grace that welcomes this beloved one into new life with you. May your presence be their constant guide, and may their journey be filled with peace, strength, and joy in you. Let their life be a true reflection of your love to the world.



# 06 Prayer for Compassion

Merciful Light of the World, as we celebrate the arrival of Christ, we acknowledge the deep shadows that still linger in the world around us. In the face of sorrow, injustice, and despair, help us not to turn away but to carry your compassion into the places that ache for healing. May we be people who not only see your light but also reflect it with courage, humility, and grace. Shine through us, so that in the darkness, others may catch a glimpse of hope.

#### 7 Advent

Prince of Peace, we thank you for the promise of stillness in the middle of the world's noise. As we prepare for your coming, quiet our hearts and help us rest in your presence. Teach us to be people who make peace, who listen, forgive, and build bridges of grace. May your peace take root in us and flow through us into every relationship.

# 2 Zephaniah 3:17

What would it mean to you if you knew that your heavenly Father rejoices over you, that Jesus is glad you are a part of his life, and that the Spirit's joy over you flows freely between the Father and the Son? God isn't just okay with having made you — he delights in you! Jesus wasn't overcome by evil, but overcame evil with good, freely pouring himself out for you because of his love for you! Consider for a moment what it means that Jesus is a victorious warrior over evil, sin, death, and all that seeks to harm or destroy you. Isn't that a good reason for joy?

# MOUNT STERLING, KENTUCKY, US

#### Baltimore, Maryland, US

Loving Shepherd, we praise you for the gift of faithful pastors who serve with humility, dedication, and grace. Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate their ministry and honor the ways they reflect your care in word and action. May their hearts be refreshed by your Spirit and encouraged by the love of the community they serve. Let this celebration be a reminder that their labor is not in vain and that you are pleased with every act of love offered in your name.

#### London, Kentucky, US

Gracious God, we celebrate the baptism of two new members, and the joy of their commitment to follow you. Thank you for your faithfulness in their lives and the love that brought them to this moment. May your Spirit continue to grow in them and lead them in every step ahead. Strengthen them as they walk with you and with one another in faith.

# 11 Iligan, Philippines

God of glory and grace, we lift our hearts in praise for the regional worship gathering and the joy of coming together as one body. Thank you for the voices united in song, the Spirit-filled atmosphere, and the deep sense of your presence among us. We celebrate the beauty of your people gathered from different places, worshiping in unity and love. May the joy and encouragement of this time continue to echo in our hearts and flow into our communities. Amen.

# 12 Cleveland, Ohio, US

Generous God, we celebrate the time set apart for our team retreat and the ways your Spirit moved through rest, reflection, and renewed connection. Thank you for the joy of shared meals, honest conversations, and fresh vision that deepened our sense of purpose and unity. May the fruit of this retreat continue to grow in our life together as a congregation. Strengthen us to serve with joy, lead with love, and walk forward in step with your grace.

# 13 Cincinnati, Ohio, US

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the beauty and connection shared through the neighborhood craft show. As creativity filled the space and neighbors gathered, we celebrate the ways your presence was reflected in joy, hospitality, and conversation. May seeds of friendship and community continue to grow from this time together. Help us remain open and present to the people around us, always ready to reflect your welcome.



#### 14 Advent

Joyful Redeemer, we praise you for the glad news of your coming that fills the world with hope. Even in hard places, your joy breaks in and lifts our hearts. Help us to rejoice in your nearness and share that joy with those around us. May we be bearers of good news in both word and deed.

# 16 Jacksonville, Florida, US

God of joy and community, we give thanks for the neighborhood fun day and the over 50 families who came to share in laughter, games, and connection. Thank you for the opportunity to be a presence of love and celebration in the heart of our community. May the relationships formed and smiles exchanged lead to deeper trust and shared life. Continue to show us how to be good neighbors who reflect your kindness.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, US

### 10

#### Kenockee, Michigan, US

Savior of all, we thank you for the blessing of the annual community yard sale and the joy it brought to all who participated. We praise you for the new connections made and the open doors it created for sharing your love. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, listen, and build relationships within our neighborhood. May the seeds planted during this event continue to grow, drawing more hearts into fellowship and faith.

#### 21 Advent

Faithful God, we marvel at the depth of your love, made known through the gift of your Son. As we draw near to Christmas, stir our hearts to love as you love with generosity, humility, and compassion. Let your love be born in us again, that we might reflect it in our homes, churches, and neighborhoods.

#### 20.0

#### Colossians 3:14 NLT

Jesus experienced life in a family, learning to honor and obey his parents and to follow in his father's trade of carpentry. Once, after his parents had sought him all over Jerusalem, they found him in the temple sitting at the feet of the elders of the people. However, even though he knew his true calling was from his heavenly Father, he submitted himself to the authority and care of his parents until he was considered an adult. Today, what does the Spirit say to you about practicing the spiritual discipline of mutual submission within your family relationships, thereby expressing God's love and creating harmony and unity?

#### Psalm 80:2b-3 NLT

Looking around us, we see much which needs to be changed, healed, or transformed. At times, and especially during Advent, we may feel as though God is indifferent to the suffering and struggle of human beings. However, the reality is that our experience of our suffering and struggle is totally different depending upon what we believe about God. Do we believe that God loves us and really does care about our suffering? Do we believe he is present and at work right now in us and our lives? Pause and think about what it means that Jesus was willing to take on all the experiences of our human existence and that he sent his Spirit to live in you.

## 17 Sun Valley, California. US

Lord of love, we celebrate the beauty and richness of Hispanic heritage within our congregation. Thank you for the traditions, stories, music, and faith expressed with such joy and strength. May this celebration deepen our unity and widen our understanding of your diverse kingdom. Help us honor one another and reflect your image in all its beauty.

# 18 Big Sandy, Texas US

Generous God, we thank you for the joy and warmth shared during the fall festival. As neighbors gathered for food, laughter, and connection, we celebrate the ways your love was reflected in every detail. May the relationships formed grow into lasting community and deeper trust. Help us continue to show up with hospitality and grace, revealing your heart in our neighborhood.

# 20 Miramar, Florida, US

Merciful God, we give thanks for the launch of this new connect group and the hearts drawn to grow together in Christ.

May this space become one of belonging, transformation, and spiritual growth. Strengthen the commitment of each participant and deepen their love for you and one another. Lead them in the way of discipleship, forming them more fully in your image.

# 23 Christmas Week Prayer Luke 2:19 NIV

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Mary's quiet reflection reminds us that sometimes God's presence is best received in moments of stillness. In the midst of holiday activity, when can you find time to pause and reflect on Christ's gift? Like Mary, hold these precious truths close, inviting God to deepen your faith and trust in the Savior given to us all.



#### 74 Christmas Eve

Everlasting Light, on this holy night we pause in awe at the mystery of your coming. You chose to dwell among us, wrapped in humanity, bringing hope to the world. As we gather in candlelight and song, fill us with wonder and gratitude. May the beauty of this night stay with us and lead us to live as reflections of your light.

#### 25 Christmas

God With Us, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus — your perfect gift of grace and truth. Thank you for breaking into our world with love that restores and joy that endures. As we celebrate today, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our lives be shaped by your presence. Let the miracle of Christmas renew our faith and draw us closer to you.

# 26 Christmas Week Prayer Luke 2:7 NIV

"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Jesus entered the world in humble surroundings, reminding us that God often shows up in unexpected places. As you celebrate Christmas, where might God be inviting you to see his presence in the simple or overlooked parts of your life? Reflect on how you can make room for God's love to dwell in your heart and your home.

# 27 Christmas Week Prayer Luke 2:25-26 NIV

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." Simeon's patient faith was rewarded as he held the promised Savior in his arms. Like Simeon, are there areas in your life where God is asking you to wait in faith? Reflect on how God has been faithful to you in the past, and pray for strength and patience as you await His promises today.

# 28 Prayer of Comfort

For many, this time of year can be one of joy and also grief. Jesus, you felt the pains of loneliness while here on earth. Draw near to those who are missing a loved one or are feeling alone this Christmas. Wrap your loving arms around them and fill them with your presence.



# BIG SANDY, TEXAS, US FREE Bibles Bracelets Stickers

#### **70** John 1:9 Mirror Bible

We are confronted during these twelve days of Christmas with the reality that the Light of the world — God himself — took on our human flesh. In Jesus, we find God has entered into the midst of our human experience, into our world darkened even now by evil, sin, and death, and has brought his grace and truth to bear on each and every circumstance of life. Today, where do you feel darkness is reigning? Are there places where you believe God is not present and active? Pause for a moment, and picture Jesus' real presence by the Spirit bringing light into those dark places.

# 30 Edmonton,

God of creativity and connection, we celebrate the joy shared during the neighborhood car show. Thank you for the beauty of restored vehicles, the conversations sparked, and the warmth of hospitality extended to our neighbors. May the relationships formed continue to grow, and may this event be a reflection of your welcoming presence in our community. Let every gathering be a chance to share your love in simple and meaningful ways.

#### **21** New Years Eve

Eternal God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we pause to reflect on your faithfulness through every joy, trial, and turning point. Thank you for walking with us in what was and for the grace that has carried us here. Stir in us a spirit of deep gratitude for the growth, the lessons, and the gifts we've received along the way. As we look ahead, may we do so with open hearts and renewed trust in your goodness.

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

PLEASE EMAIL INFO@GCI.ORG WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS.

