

# Preparing to pray

Throughout the ages people have approached God in many different ways (Acts 17:23). As Christ followers we approach God our Father through Jesus Christ His Son, and God's Word in Matthew 6 gives guidance and instruction. Prayer is about spending time with our Father, trusting Him, and acknowledging His greatness and our need of Him; focusing our thoughts and glorifying our Father as we pray before going through specific, targeted prayer requests.

## CONFESSION

Means admit – and agree with God about the sin in our lives; admitting it, confessing it, and turning away from any and all things that dishonor and displease God.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7 ESV)*

## ADORATION

Means worship – recognizing and acknowledging God for who He is.

*Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! (Psalm 99:5 ESV)*

## THANKSGIVING

Means thankful – spending time with God and thanking Him for the forgiveness of sins, and the blessing of being His child, and the privilege of serving Him; thanking Him and naming the blessings one by one.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV)*

## SUPPLICATION

Means request – making requests to God on behalf of others, praying for God's will in the lives of family, extended family and friends, people in your sphere of influence: school, workplace and neighborhood, as well as people around the world.

*Then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause. (1 Kings 8:49 ESV)*

### 1. Pray for Pastor Bruce as he teaches the Advent series

*For the Son of Man came to see and save the lost. (Luke 19:10 ESV)*

- Wisdom, strength, and protection for Pastor Bruce and his family.
- For families attending church together all through the holidays.
- The “Advent” series will change the holidays for members and guests alike.

### 2. Pray for our campus facilities

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (Psalm 143:10 ESV)*

- Thanking God for answered prayer with our permanent facilities.
- Weather and safety as construction has begun in Franklin.
- Safety as construction continues on the East campus.
- Growth of worshippers for Biltmore Church en Español.
- That by the power of the Holy Spirit even more lives will be changed at every Biltmore Church location as we share Christ's love with the lost.

### 3. Pray for our ministry opportunities

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)*

- Serve828: Sponsor groceries for families, Nov. 19-Dec. 16
- Serve828: Blankets, gloves, socks, hats collections, Nov. 25-Dec. 24
- Serve828: Assembly and distribution of groceries, Dec. 15
- Disaster Relief trip, Dec. 2-8
- Sponsorship of Compassion International Children

### 4. Pray for our “Christmas at Biltmore Church” Services

*And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:16)*

- Services: All “Christmas at Biltmore Church” services on Sunday and Monday will be identical.
  - Sunday, December 23 - normal service times at each campus
  - Monday, December 24 - 5:00 pm service at Arden and Hendersonville
- Direction and clarity for preparation of services.
- That Pastor's message will stir hearts as never before.
- Pray about who you are inviting.

### 5. Pray for the REACH Initiative

*Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation. (Psalm 35:9 ESV)*

- That everyone will do something to play a crucial part in fulfilling the mission of making disciples of Jesus who reach up, reach in, and reach out.
- Provision, consistency and accountability with the pledges made for the facilities.
- Spring re-opening of East and Franklin campuses

## 6. Pray for the Biltmore Church staff

Multi-site • Mike McKee, Melissa Knight Español Carlos Ortiz



Franklin: Patrick Trawick, Benji Palencia, Ben Knisley, Paula Gentry, Renee Vargas



Hendersonville: Marcus Hayes, Allen Ebert, Jacob Payne, Will Tompkins, Cheryl Ashenfelder, Audra Gillespie



Swannanoa: Seth Brown, Matt Ware, Matt Sutton, Avery Bowman, Carrie Ann Plemmons



West Asheville: Jeremy Woods, Logan Hammond, Daiquan N'Kere, Nate Buchanan, Sara DeYoung



# PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER 2018



*"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!" (Psalm 50:23 ESV)*