

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)

Prayer for Anxious Times:

Sovereign God, I rejoice today that You are good and You are great. You care and You can. Help me to walk by faith and not by fear. For the glory of my Savior and King. In Jesus' Name. Amen

1. COVID-19 Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that God's people will continue to draw close to Him.
- Pray for the lost - to be desperate for a relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for health and protection of our members, our community, our country, and our world.
- Pray for the countless people working to keep our communities safe.
- Pray for all those affected, and for the spread to cease.
- Pray for a cure/treatment to be found.
- Pray for Foster Care families, agencies, and the church to be a source of safety and encouragement to the children.

2. Pastor Bruce as he continues teaching through Philipians

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. (Philippians 1:12 ESV)

Boldness, wisdom, and clarity as he continues to preach and proclaim the truth of God's Word.

3. Online Services

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14 ESV)

- Pray that the message will spur on God's people.
- Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit even more lives will be changed as we share Christ's love with the lost.
- Pray that each week, every service will reach further and wider to more people than ever before.

4. Upcoming 21 Days of Prayer

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24 ESV)

- Pray for pastor as he prepares his sermon series.
- Pray for each campus and their communities.

5. Ministry Opportunities

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14 ESV)

- Pray for Adventure Week, August 3-6.
- Pray for Student Camp, August 3-5.
- Pray for the "Biltmore Church Loves Schools" initiative.

6. Pray for wisdom in decision making

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (John 12:26 ESV)

- **Government Officials**
- **Church Leadership**
- **Schools/Teachers**
- **For doors to open for us to have more opportunities to continue to serve our community.**

7. Pray for “Week of Baptism”

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. (John 1:7 ESV)

- **All campuses, August 13 – 21**
- **Follow up and encourage those who have yet to be baptized**

8. Pray for the Biltmore Church staff

In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesian 2:21 ESV)

Thank you for praying for the health and safety of all church staff during the month of August. Your prayers are a source of great encouragement.

PRAYER GUIDE

August 2020

THANKSGIVING FOR AND CLAIMING ANSWERED PRAYERS

Take the time to go back through the eight major requests, articulating by faith, asking God to answer our prayers according to His divine will and purpose. Thank Him for hearing and answering our prayers, and for the continued blessings over Biltmore Church.

“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)

