

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

REACH UP

1. Pastor Bruce as he teaches

Hear my cry, oh God, listen to my prayer. (Psalm 61:1 ESV)

- **Pray for boldness, wisdom, and clarity as he preaches and proclaims the truth of God's word.**

2. 2021 preaching series "Year of The Bible"

But the word of God increased and multiplied (Acts 12:24 ESV)

- **Pray that the messages 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.**
- **Pray that people will want to utilize the resources, to read the Bible more; to have a closer, deeper relationship with Christ.**

3. Wisdom in decision making in this Covid season

The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer (Psalm 6:9 ESV)

- **Pray for Government Officials**
- **Pray for Church Leadership**
- **Pray for Schools/Teachers**

REACH IN

1. Connect Groups

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17 ESV)

- **Pray for wisdom for those teaching.**
- **Pray for a fresh, strong commitment to attend a group.**
- **Pray for Biblical friendships and spiritual growth.**
- **Pray for those not yet attending a group.**

2. Student Ministry

The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. (Psalm 126:3 ESV)

- **Pray for WAKE Weekend: May 7-9**
- **Pray that the lost will be ministered to through the teaching and witnessing of changed hearts.**

REACH OUT

1. Mission/Ministry Opportunities

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (Romans 15:2 ESV)

- **Pray for the Detention Center Extension Site- the men and women will begin to watch the online worship services Easter weekend.**
- **Pray for Coastway Church Plant-developing staff and volunteers.**
- **Pray that the Education Pods will serve the children in the schools that don't have the needed resources.**
- **Pray for ministry opportunity to open up in South Asia; for the unreached and unengaged people groups.**
- **Pray for Disaster Relief in Lumberton April 11-17.**
- **Pray Disaster Relief in Kentucky April 25-30.**
- **Pray for Serve828 Food Distribution-2500 boxes into homes on April 29.**
- **Pray for continued support of Compassion International children.**
- **Pray for doors to continue to open in our schools, communities, jails, and prisons.**

2. Easter Services

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3 ESV)

- **Pray for guidance and wisdom in the preparation of services.**
- **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 the services will reach further and wider than ever before.**
- **Pray for follow up with our guests.**

Thank you for continuing to pray for the health and safety of our members and staff during the month of April. Your fervent prayers are a source of great encouragement.

THANKSGIVING FOR AND CLAIMING ANSWERED PRAYERS

Take the time to go back through each of these requests, declaring 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.

PRAYER GUIDE

April 2021

