

## 2021 Greenwich Daily Prayer Guide

As we enter a new year together, and faced with the continuing challenges of the ongoing pandemic, the leaders of Greenwich once again are calling the church family to a daily, concerted effort of prayer. In every season of prayer we seek God's purposes not only for our own individual lives and church family, but for the broader community and global church.

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### **Sunday – Unity of the Church**

*"Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed... 'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'"*

*John 17:23*

- Unity in Christ that transcends social, cultural or political views
- Shared love for Jesus as the Way, Truth, Life and Lord of all
- Growing commitment to the truths of Scripture over and against prevailing culture winds and views
- Closer connections and partnerships with area churches
- Ability to listen, wait, trust and pray within the church family
- Deeper awareness, wisdom and humility over ways that unity within Greenwich may be impacted by race
- A deep Spirit-led purpose in worship, mission, and ministry

### **Monday – Congregational Care and Fellowship**

*"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them, because they were helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" Matthew 9:35*

- Greenwich family members who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit (see weekly prayer lists)
- Effective contact with those feeling isolated and unable to attend worship services due to the pandemic
- Home communion and other visits by our Deacons and Elders
- Mid-week studies/gatherings to have fruitful impact and to be conducted wisely and safely in light of the pandemic.
- For the joy of the Lord to be the strength and shield for those who suffer from anxiety, fear, or discouragement.
- For marriages and family life where pandemic disruptions have brought tension and strife.

## **Tuesday – Leadership of Greenwich**

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...” 1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

- Pastors, elders, deacons, staff and volunteer ministry leaders to be led by the Spirit and Word in all things
- Wisdom, courage, humility, love and unity in all decisions
- Greater presence of the Spirit’s gifts, fruit and power in our lives
- Demonstrate a Christ-like attitude, servanthood and sacrificial love toward the church family
- Attentiveness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in planning for ministry and mission in this time of a global pandemic
- Wise administration of church funds, buildings and grounds

## **Wednesday – Faithful Discipleship / Apprenticeship to Jesus**

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” Ephesians 3:16-19*

- Renewed discipline in practices of spiritual growth and prayer
- Marriages to be expressions of Christ’s love for the church
- God’s favor upon his Word that will lead to conversions
- Parents to have wisdom, courage, kindness and love as they instruct and discipline their children
- Truth and grace expressed in sacrificial love to shape our lives
- Attentiveness to the ways racial injustice and economic disparity continue to impact the church and community
- Radical generosity of personal wealth and church resources to be directed wisely toward those in need

## **Thursday – Mission to the Community and World**

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-23*

- An increased burden for those who do not yet know Jesus Christ
- For our current mission partners to experience God’s favor and protection in family life and fruitful ministry

- Greater courage and love to speak and act as followers of Jesus Christ within our circle of friends and in the community.
- Our refugee resettlement team and the families we assist
- Responsiveness to the Spirit's leading in new opportunities for mission support and involvement
- Ways that we can strengthen and serve our first responders, community service providers and local public officials.

### **Friday – Impact of Pandemic and other Community Concerns**

*"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you"*

*1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 12:23*

- Local businesses, families and those facing financial hardship
- Protection for police, first responders and healthcare providers
- Comfort and health for those in hospitals and nursing homes.
- Teachers, administrators, children and parents dealing with the challenges of distance learning and disrupted routines.
- Women and children facing increased exposure to abuse.
- Those facing mistreatment due to the color of their skin or their language, religion or country of origin.
- Public officials confronted with decision-making challenges
- For godly responses to injustice and opportunities for reconciliation

### **Saturday – Worship Life of the Congregation**

*"Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory' And the LORD said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD in your presence.'" Exodus 33:18-19*

- God's goodness and glory to be revealed in our worship services through Word, sacrament, song and prayer.
- Responsiveness to the Spirit's leading in every expression of our gathered and virtual worship services.
- Warm welcome for all who seek the fellowship of Jesus Christ
- Effectiveness of livestream technology enabling those at home to participate in our Sunday services
- Health and safety of our pastors, staff and volunteers who lead in-person services every week.
- Willingness for those who attend to abide by safety protocols on Sunday mornings.

## **Additional Scriptures to Guide our Prayers and Intercession**

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:3-4*

*“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.” 1 Peter 3:8*

*“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request.” 1 Chronicles 4:10*

*“Jesus said, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:37-38*

*“Surely He will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence...You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday...If you make the Most High your dwelling – even the Lord, who is my refuge – then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come nigh your dwelling.” Psalm 91: 3, 5-6, 9-10*

*“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” 1Timothy 5:17*

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

*“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10*

*“Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever, may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.” Psalm 72:18-19*

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We offer this daily guide as a way of engaging our minds and hearts in a united expression of prayer before our wise, loving and holy God. Scripture bids us to “pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1st Thessalonians 5:16-18). We invite you to join this effort.