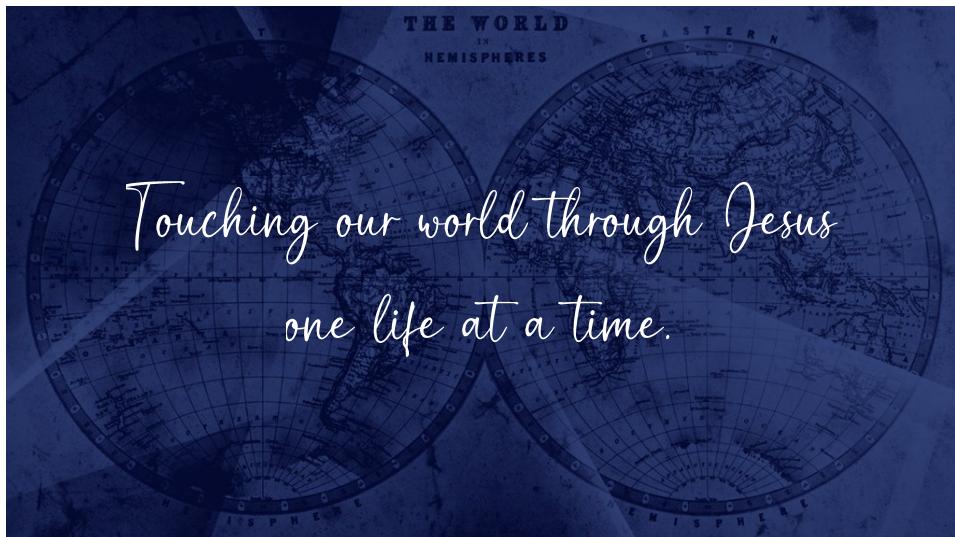


PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, September 11, 2022

OUR MISSION

Unionville Alliance Church exists to lead people to know Jesus Christ and to follow Him passionately.



ALLIANCE VISION PRAYER

O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations."
Mark 11:17

A PRAYING CHURCH ~ A HOUSE OF PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "**pray without ceasing,**" What exactly does that look like?

D.A. Kamstra in his book entitled, "The Praying Church Idea Book" puts it this way, "*Being a house of prayer involves more than having an interest in prayer, more than periodically praying in church, and more than having a number of active prayer ministries. Being a house of prayer means that the church's primary identifying mark is prayer.*"

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalm 118:24)

For a day in Your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
(Psalm 84:10)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

SEGMENT 1

PAUSE: SILENT TIME

Lord.... I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. (Psalm 131:2)

This verse is an example of a prayer of stillness. As we begin our prayer service, we want to start from a place of quietness and peace. Pete Greig of "The Prayer Course" says, "To start we must stop. To move forward we must pause.... stillness and silence prepare your mind and prime your heart to pray from a place of greater peace, faith, and adoration."

~ 1 ~

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him...."
(Psalm 37:7a)

~ 2 ~

"I wait quietly before God..."
(Psalm 62:1a)

~ 3 ~

"Be still and know that I am God...."
(Psalm 46:10)

SEGMENT 2

REJOICE: JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR & HEALER

Holy Father, we give thanks to You and proclaim Your greatness. We are so grateful that You have loved us despite our sin and given us Your one and only Son to die in our place, so that we are no longer condemned, but through trusting in You, we can have the hope of eternal life. In Your mercy You came to seek and save the lost, knowing that our greatest need was the healing of our souls.

We know that You can also bring healing to our frail bodies, with whatever physical and emotional wounds they carry. Today, we come to You like the woman who touched the hem of Your garment, knowing and believing that You had the power to heal her. May her bold faith inspire us as we expectantly wait upon You to bring the healing that we need today. [Here you can bring to the Lord your own needs for healing or those of others.]

We thank You that we can hold to the promise that these broken bodies will one day be transformed into glorious, resurrected bodies, as what is mortal will become immortal. We know that our flesh and hearts may fail, but You are the strength of our hearts and our portion forever.

We thank You for entering into a relationship with us and for meeting our spiritual and physical needs. It is You, Father, who crowns us with love and tender mercies. You fill our lives with good things. Our youth is renewed like the eagles. We will sing to You the praises due Your name and tell everyone about Your marvelous deeds. Thank You for Christian fellowship and unity, and for this time of intimate praise and worship together. With our whole hearts and all that is within us, we bless Your holy name.

We are so grateful that if we come close to You, You will come close to us. As we rejoice and praise your name, and meet You in intimate prayer, may souls be anchored in You. We come before You with broken spirits and repentant hearts as we meet You in Your sanctuary. We know that as we worship in spirit and

truth, by Your grace we will shed more of our carnal nature and allow the Holy Spirit to take His proper position in our lives. Lords, our hearts are open to whatever You want to do in and through our lives. As we humble ourselves before You today, may Your Holy Spirit bring conviction and transformation, and may You work in our midst in powerful, miraculous ways, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture References: Exodus 15:1-18; Psalm 73:26; Psalm 51:17; Psalm 103:4; Isaiah 40:31; John 3:16; Luke 19:10; 2 Corinthians 5:4; James 4:8.



SAVIOUR

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



HEALER

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Luke 4:18-19

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SEGMENT 3

REJOICE: JESUS, OUR SANCTIFIER & COMING KING

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that You are our **sanctifier**. God, it is You who works in us both to will and to work for Your good pleasure. Your desire for us, Your people, is that we be holy as You are holy. Even before You made the world, You loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in Your eyes.

You call us to be holy in everything we do, and we can be certain that this good work in us will continue until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. We are truly a work in progress! Though our outer self wastes away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. May our hearts be strong, blameless, and holy as we stand before You, God our Father, when our Lord Jesus comes again with all His holy people. For it is your will for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Amen.

Scripture References: Philippians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 10:10.

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that You are our **coming King**. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Kingship belongs to You, and You rule over the nations. Great and amazing are Your deeds, just and true are Your ways, our God and King! Your way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of Your feet.

For you, O Lord are a great God, and a great King above all gods. Your greatness is unsearchable. We will extol you and bless Your name forever and ever. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, we will meditate. All your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless You!

We, Your chosen and faithful people, shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power. Lord Jesus, surely You will appear again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Your return. On Your robe and on your thigh a name is written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. Amen.

Scripture References: Psalms 145:13; 22:28; Revelation 15:3; Nahum 1:3; Psalm 95:3; 145:1,3,5,10,11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 47:1.



SEGMENT 4

REJOICE: IN GOD'S WORK AT UAC

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
(Philippians 4:4)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
(Psalm 103:1)

Abba Father, You are a good, good Father who delights in giving good things to His children. We praise You Lord because You are deserving of all praise, honour, and glory. We sing praises to You and glory in Your holy name as we give You thanks for the many wondrous things You have done in our midst.

We thank You for those You put in leadership at UAC: our lead Pastor Daniel, his wife Laura, and the staff: Pastors Leonor, Kesha and Allison, Colin, Kris, and Mary; our elders: Johnny, Winston, Les, Nesa and John and the many lay leaders, and all their families who support them. Lord, You chose each one for such a time as this. We thank You Abba that they rejoice in You and seek Your leading in all matters.

Lord, we humbled ourselves and asked You for direction throughout the Covid pandemic, from the very beginning. Our Board of Elders spent countless hours seeking your direction and, as always, You heard and answered. Father, UAC sought to serve You, despite the constraints, with all You blessed us with. We thank you.

You guided and enabled us to pivot so that we could switch to online services when in person was not possible. As a result, many who never attended UAC, were able to hear Your word spoken in truth and in love. When in person services were once again allowed, we rejoice that the UAC family gathered following all best practice protocols seeking to keep all safe while still keeping all ministry areas functioning. We thank you

SANCTIFIER
May God himself the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

COMING KING
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 28:19-20

for our worship team who ministered to us, mask wearing and all.

Every ministry area—Children, Youth, Young Adult, Men, Women, Oasis Seniors, Life Groups and Alpha—continued online when necessary and in person where possible. We even explored new territory to offer The Prayer Course online for the first time.

We are especially thankful that essential outreach ministries like Master's Pantry, Hampers of Hope and Toronto Alliance lunches were maintained despite the challenges. Your Holy Spirit enabled each leader and volunteer to find new and creative ways of serving: from holding outdoor services in the summer to having drive by pick up for our Master's Pantry clients. Oh, Father you showed us all how to "taste and see that the Lord is good."

We learned to respect each other's varied points of view regarding Covid and to love our neighbours. We began a weekly online prayer time so that anyone could join. We had summer prayer walks to bless our neighbourhoods. When the Before Service Prayer Team could no longer meet indoors, they adjusted by walking around the church building outside. O God, we sought You and You showed us so many new and wonderful ways of serving You: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Father, we thank You that we sought you with closed eyes and then moved in obedience with eyes opened neither looking to the left nor the right, as we heard You say, "this is the way walk in it."

Thank you, Abba Father!

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 107:1)

Scripture References: Matthew 7:11; 1 Chronicles 16:8-12; Esther 4:14; Psalm 104:34; Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Luke 11:13; Psalm 34:8; Matthew 22:39; Isaiah 43:19; 20:31.

SEGMENT 5

ASK: THE WORLD

Lord, we recognize that today, **September 11th**, reminds us that 21 years ago the world changed forever in so many ways. We acknowledge the pain, the loss, the grief, and the hopelessness that may still remain in the hearts of family and friends of the loved ones lost. Our prayer is that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, would comfort hearts and minds that they might set their hope on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people.

Lord, we find ourselves continuing on in what seems to be a never-ending **global Covid 19 pandemic**, but we will not fear, for You are with us; You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us. You assure us that when we dwell in the shelter of the Most High, we will abide in the shadow of the Almighty—our refuge, our fortress and our God in whom we trust. For you, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried. You have loved us with an everlasting love and therefore have continued Your faithfulness to us. Help us to put our trust in You and not to lean on our own understanding. In all our ways, help us to acknowledge You that You may lead us in a straight path no matter what the world brings our way.

Lord Jesus, You have called us to be Your witnesses, telling people about You everywhere—to the ends of the earth. We earnestly pray that you would send out workers into the harvest field of the **Unreached People Groups** (UPG) around the globe. You said, "Wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest." We ask that You lead the blind in a way they do not know, guiding them in paths they have not known, and turning the darkness before them into light. We pray that You may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ. Raise a signal, Lord, for nations far away, and whistle for

them from the ends of the earth. Behold, quickly, speedily they come!

Lord, we know that you understand all things: things in **Ukraine** and things in **Russia**. Your understanding is beyond measure. You know things we do not know and understand what is not clear to us. No one needs to tell you, Jesus, about human nature, for you know what is in each person's heart. Lord, it is You who makes wars cease to the end of the earth, and in peace we both lie down and sleep; for You alone, make us dwell in safety. Lord, we ask that You scatter the peoples who delight in war. We cry out to You on behalf of the Ukrainian people displaced by the war and those living in the midst of it. You have declared that because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, You will arise and place them in the safety for which they long. Now, let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayers of Your people as we lift up before You the nation of Ukraine.

Thank you that you reign supreme and sovereign over all the earth bringing comfort in difficult times, peace in turbulent times, and joy in sorrowful times. May your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Scripture References: 2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 Timothy 4:10; Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 91:1-2; Psalm 66:10; Jeremiah 31:3; Proverbs 3:5-6; Acts 1:8; Matthew 9:38; John 4:35; Isaiah 42:16; Colossians 4:3; Isaiah 5:25; Psalm 147:5; Job 15:19; John 2:25; Psalm 46:9; 4:8; 68:30; 12:8; Nehemiah 1:6.

SEGMENT 6

ASK: CANADA

Lord, we lift up the **Indigenous Peoples** of Canada to You. Lord, You are the giver of justice to the weak and the fatherless. It is You who maintains the right of the afflicted and the destitute. We pray, Lord that Your wisdom would prevail – wisdom that is pure, peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favouritism and is always sincere. Thank you, Lord, that You lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations, but will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. We humbly ask for forgiveness and claim Your promise to forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. Our sin, as a nation, is not hidden from You. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, we ask that You would help us as we seek to **build tolerance** for one another into the framework of our society. We thank You for the diversity that exists from coast to coast in this great country. Lord, You have said that we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind as the first and greatest commandment. A second commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself," is equally important. Lord, show us how to love others with the love that You have poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Help us to see others as intrinsically valuable human beings – created in Your image; each person as one for whom Christ died. Help us to not merely say that we love each other; help us to show the truth by our actions. Lord, we ask for wisdom which You promise to give to all without finding fault. We ask You to instruct us and teach us in the way we should go – may our hearts reflect Your heart. We don't always know what to do Lord, but our eyes are on You.

Lord, we lift up before You our **government** – municipal, provincial and federal. Lord, we know that all authority comes from You, and it is You who has placed our government officials

in positions of authority. Lord, help them to make wise decisions and to govern with the humility that comes from wisdom. For ourselves Lord, we ask that You give us our daily bread.

As we deal with the challenges that come with the **economy** and **inflation**, we remember that our God will supply every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. We ask that You give us neither poverty nor riches; give us just enough to satisfy our needs. Help us not to be anxious for tomorrow but to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Your word says that we will eat bread by the sweat of our face and that man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening. Lord, **unemployment** is a difficult place of patience and waiting. Please help those who find themselves unemployed to wait patiently for You to provide. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon those seeking employment and we ask that You establish the work of their hands.

Thank you that you rule over our nation of Canada bringing peace, love, and prosperity to our land. May we always submit to your Lordship and obey your voice in everything. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture References: Psalms 82:3; James 3:17; Exodus 34:7; Psalm 123:3; Matthew 22:38-39; Romans 5:5; Genesis 1:27; 1 John 3:18; James 1:5; Psalm 32:8; 2 Chronicles 20:12; Romans 13:1; James 5:13; Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:19; Proverbs 30:8; Matthew 6:33-34; Genesis 3:19; Psalm 104:23; Psalm 90:17.

SEGMENT 7

ASK: THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

Dear Father God, we, at Unionville Alliance Church (UAC) thank You that we are a part of the Alliance World Fellowship (AWF) which unites churches and ministries related to the Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA). God, thank you for using Dr. Albert Benjamin Simpson to start this movement in the 1880's, which developed into a mission-minded denomination so that we can join the many beautiful feet who through the years have brought good news to those who have not yet heard and say to Zion "Your God reigns."

Lord, may it continue to be so. May each one of us do our part, as You will Father, to obey Your Word to "*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 observe all that I have commanded you.*"

Father, we thank You for the recent Alliance Canada General Assembly (GA) held in Edmonton in July. We thank You that Alliance leaders were able to gather once again to refocus, be encouraged and be inspired to engage Canada as a mission field. We give You thanks for Rev. Darren Herbold who was affirmed as our new President. We pray for him, his wife, Naomi, and their three children that You will facilitate their transition from serving in Thailand to adjusting to living in Canada. We thank You for his bold vision and the plans you will give him. We thank You for Damien Lee who is now our Vice President for International Missions. We are thankful too Lord for our Eastern Canadian District (ECD) Superintendent, Rev. Curtis Peters, and his wife, Tricia, who with his team work tirelessly to serve the churches in our district. Thank You Father for Rev. Kathryn Klassen, ECD Director of Relational and Spiritual Vitality.

Lord, we pray for these men and women that they will guard their time with You, that each day they will first seek the kingdom of Heaven and the Father's will and then move in obedience so that "*all these things will be added unto you.*" Father, thank You for giving them supernatural wisdom as they build their teams;

protect their families and loved ones and may they always carve out "family time" as a priority.

Father, Paul tells us, *"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them."* Thank You for the many opportunities available to us to share Your love and the gospel: New Ventures, The Gateway Project, The Jaffray Project, Marketplace Missions, Global Ministries, Envision Canada, Defend Dignity and Ministry Networks.

Lord, you told us to *"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; and deliver them from the hand of the wicked."* We thank You for the boldness and the spirit of discernment that birthed initiatives like Defend Dignity. We pray for Glendyne Gerrard and the team as they fight for those affected by prostitution at the legislative level and help individuals seeking to come out of this slimy pit.

Father, thank You that we never need to be afraid because You promised us You would be with us always to the end of the age. *"Now may the God of peace equip us with everything good that we may do His will, working in us to do that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

Lord, we thank You for the unique ways You have moved the C&MA to fulfill the Great Commission around the world and right here in Canada. Thank You Abba Father for this opportunity to pray together. We ask You to show us what is your will for us today - "pray, give, go." Thank You Father that You hold our hand. You, the creator God of this universe, are with us and You say to us *"fear not, I am the one who helps you."* Lord may Your purposes be fulfilled in me today. May we continue to support our International Workers, the various ministries, and leaders by praying for them. Lord, we pray Your protection on all and thank You that You love us with an everlasting love. In the beautiful and matchless name of Jesus Christ!

Scripture References: Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 28:19-20; 6:33; 1 Corinthians 9:19; Psalm 82:3-4; 40:2; Hebrews 13:20-21; Isaiah 41:13; Psalm 57:2; Isaiah 30:21; Psalm 91; Jeremiah 31:3.

SEGMENT 8

ASK: UAC OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Dear Lord Jesus, we bring to You the various Outreach Ministries of our church. Thank You for the wonderful way that Master's Pantry has continued to have an amazing impact on families in need in our community. We praise You that You give us the opportunity to remember those in need and minister to them through practical ways by being Your hands and feet. We pray that we will continue to be mindful of our community and show the love and grace of Jesus through our actions and attitude.

Thank You for our sister church, Toronto Alliance Church (TAC), and how they are a light and beacon of hope within the downtown area. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with them in their community nights through preparing and delivering food to them. Although we can't have the same interaction with the people as before, we ask that you empower the pastors and leaders of TAC to speak Your word with grace and boldness to bring hope, comfort, and peace to those seeking the truth. As they minister to a variety of unreached people groups, may the love and message of Jesus shine brightly to them and their communities.

Thank You for the missional opportunities that You give us both locally and globally. May we be faithful to pray and participate with the mission of God. May our partnership with the Markham Pregnancy Centre be a source of comfort and hope to those going through a difficult season. As we run Alpha this year, may our congregation be bold to invite their friends, family, and co-workers into a journey of knowing Jesus. Thank You for raising up leaders and volunteers to lead this critical ministry as we reach out to those who don't know You.

We are so grateful for the summer camps that we just completed. May the seeds of faith that were sown in the hearts of the children produce much fruit for Your kingdom. We ask

that You work in the hearts of the parents as well to return to UAC for our Gather & Grow nights. May the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ shine brightly to them as you draw them closer into relationship with you.

As we prepare for Operation Christmas Child, may each shoebox that is prepared and sent be a blessing to the children who receive them. May our partnership with For Freedom International help to end slavery in Thailand. Empower our International Workers to speak Your word, do Your will, and be the fragrance of Christ in every place.

May we live lives that are holy, righteous, and blameless as we call others to the way of Jesus. We pray for courage, and that whenever we open our mouths, words would be given to us so that we would fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

May Your Holy Spirit work with deep conviction, turning people from the idols of their lives to serve the true and living God. May they become faithful imitators of Jesus, even in the midst of the challenges they face. May the message of Your love and grace flow to them and through them. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Scripture References: 1 Thessalonians 1-2, Ephesians 6:19

SEGMENT 9

ASK: UAC DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Dear Lord Jesus, we bring the various Discipleship Ministries of our church to Your throne of grace. As we seek to make passionate disciples who follow You, enable and empower us by Your Holy Spirit. May our ministries reflect Your heart and mind for what the body of Christ should be as we grow and learn together.

Thank You for our Life Groups and our Life Group leaders. We pray that each person within our congregation would join a group and journey together towards accountability, transparency, support, and prayer. Strengthen our leaders, particularly those who have been leading for many years and those who have led during the uniqueness of the Covid pandemic. May they be refreshed and renewed in this new season.

We lift up to Your throne of grace our new Gather & Grow nights as we seek Your help in time of need. We ask that You provide the needed volunteers to fulfill this vision to reach out to those who don't know Jesus while also providing a place for people to dig deeper into their relationship with Christ. As the children, youth, and adults gather for a meal and into their own separate programs, may there be unity, fellowship and love shared as we get to know one another and journey along our own unique spiritual pathways.

Thank You for our Children's Ministries and the beautiful opportunity to invest into young lives with the gospel. May each child hear the clarity of the message of Christ and make a decision to follow Jesus at a young age. As they develop into youth and face the challenges, pressures and temptations that are presented by the world, may they stay faithful to You and be a light to their friends and classmates every day. We pray for our young adults in universities, colleges, and in the workforce, that they may experience the intimacy of walking with You and serving You on a daily basis. May their love for You grow deeper as they seek to do Your will and fulfill Your plans for their lives.

Please draw afresh those who have walked away from You and help them to feel and know the love of Jesus and the love of the church around them.

We are grateful for every adult and senior in our church and the wisdom and experience they share within our community after walking with and knowing You for many years. As a multi-generational church, we pray that there would be mentorship relationships that develop organically so that we can continue to invest into and develop the next generation of Jesus followers. May our men's, women's, seniors, and caring ministries seek to touch our world through Jesus one life at a time. Empower our Pastoral Care Team as they bless and minister to those going through trials and difficult situations.

As we gather together on Sundays to worship You, we pray that we would experience You in new and tangible ways. Help us to surrender in times of worship, yield as we hear Your word, and respond as You speak to us in repentance, adoration, and praise. Empower our worship team as they hear from You and lead us into Your presence every Sunday. May worship not be limited to Sundays but help us to spend time with You developing spiritual disciplines, reading Your word, and encountering You in prayer.

Would You prepare our hearts to serve You faithfully as the first disciples did. May we care deeply for those to whom we minister, offering them not only the gospel, but our lives as well. Help us to love, encourage and comfort others as we represent Jesus to them.

Give us discernment to see their unique needs and grace to know how to meet those needs. Fill us, Lord, with Your Holy Spirit, so that love, kindness, patience, peace, and gentleness would be displayed through our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Scripture References: Galatians 5:22,23, 1 Thessalonians 2:8,12

SEGMENT 10

YIELD: A PRAYER OF RELINQUISHMENT

Today, O Lord, I yield myself to You.
May Your will be my delight today.
May Your way have perfect sway in me.
May Your love be the pattern of my living.

I surrender to You
my hopes,
my dreams,
my ambitions.

Do with them what You will,
when You will, as You will.
I place into your loving care
my family,
my friends,
my future.

Care for them with a care that I can never give.

I release into Your hands
my need to control,
my craving for status,
my fear of obscurity.

Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish
Your kingdom on earth.

For Jesus' sake,
Amen.

Richard Foster – From his book, titled Prayers of the Heart

Choose one or more of the following verses. Pray it and ask the Holy Spirit to speak His will to you through it and wait expectantly. Record what you sense the Holy Spirit is saying. Pray for God's enabling to be obedient and wait on His perfect timing for His will to be done, through you, 'on earth as it is in Heaven.'

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

(Psalm 46:1)

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:31)

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.'

(Isaiah 30:21)

PRAY

Pause Rejoice Ask Yield

These four aspects of prayer based on the Lord's Prayer can provide a structure and flow for your prayer life. Approach them like dance steps rather than hard-and-fast rules to infuse freshness into your prayers.

PAUSE

Jesus said . . . , "When you pray, . . . "

To start we must stop. To move forward we must pause. This is the first step in a deeper prayer life: Put down your wish list and wait. Sit quietly. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) Become fully present in place and time so that your scattered senses can recenter themselves on God's eternal presence. Stillness and silence prepare your mind and prime your heart to pray from a place of greater peace, faith, and adoration. In fact, these are themselves important forms of prayer.

REJOICE

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name."

The Lord's Prayer begins with an invitation to adoration: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name." Having paused to be still at the start of a prayer time, the most natural and appropriate response to God's presence is reverence. Try not to skip this bit. Hallowing the Father's name is the most important and enjoyable dimension of prayer. Linger here, rejoicing in God's blessings before asking more.

ASK

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done. . . Give us today our daily bread."

Prayer means many things to many people, but at its simplest and most immediate, it means asking God for help. It's a soldier begging for courage, a mother alone in a hospital chapel. The Lord's Prayer invites us to ask God for everything from "daily bread" to the "kingdom come," for ourselves (petition) and for others (intercession).

YIELD

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil... Amen.

The final step in the dance of prayer is surrender. It's a clenched fist slowly opening; We yield to God's presence "on earth as in heaven" through contemplative prayer and by listening to His Word, which is "our daily bread." We yield to God's holiness through confession and reconciliation, praying, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." And we yield to His power in spiritual warfare, asking our Father to "deliver us from evil." It's by surrendering to God that we overcome, by emptying ourselves that we are filled, and by yielding our lives in prayer that our lives themselves become a prayer—the Lord's Prayer—in the end.

Content taken from How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig

