

*LENTEN*  
*PRAYER GUIDE 2021*  
*40 DAYS OF REFLECTIONS*



*FEBRUARY 17, 2021 – APRIL 3, 2021*

**Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter.  
40 Days of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends  
on the Saturday before Easter, excluding Sundays.**

**Northwoods UMC**  
**Lenten Prayer Guide 2021**  
**\*40 Days of Prayer**  
**With Prayer Focus on Community Needs**

**Introduction**

This prayer guide is designed to prepare Christian disciples for discerning God's calling for their lives and for their congregations. Each day's guide includes a Scripture, devotional thought and a prayer.

God invites us to pray. According to the Scriptures, God encourages frequent praying. We are encouraged to come to God, just as we are, and after sincere prayer we rarely remain the same. Embrace this opportunity. Engage your Lord these 40 days with faith. Trust that God will act during this Season of Prayer as a channel of God's love to the world.

**40 Days of Lenten Prayers**

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays. Sundays are not counted because Sunday always celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death. This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 17 and is the launch date of this "40 days of Lent" Prayer Guide.

**The First Four Days of Lent**  
**February 17-20, 2021**

**Ash Wednesday - Luke 5: 27-28 – Disciples of Jesus**

Imagine Jesus Christ looking directly at you and inviting you to make him Lord of your entire life, saying, "Come on, follow me." As you begin this spiritual journey, where you start is important. What will you do with Jesus' invitation? What will it mean for you to live as a fully devoted disciple of Jesus?

Prayer: Lord, on this special day, Ash Wednesday, may my small sacrifices in fasting be a way to clear away the clutter in my life so that I may see you more clearly and follow you more dearly, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic*

**Thursday After Ash Wednesday - Matthew 16:13-20 – Gathering Around the Messiah**

We gather around this confession: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." What makes a congregation a congregation. It is a group of persons gathered around Christ, in-person or online, staking our lives on the confession of Jesus as Lord. But then what? May this Lenten Season be a great time of renewal for all.

Prayer: Lord, I confess you as Lord. Let everything I do this day and throughout this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you, and show to the world that you are the Lord of my life. Help me to spend more time in prayer, in Jesus name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Health care professionals and health workers*

**Friday After Ash Wednesday – Matthew 7:7-11 – Praying in Faith**

Ask – Search – Knock. God wants the best for us his children. How willing are you to pray with faith, trusting that God will answer? Do you believe in prayer as a spiritual discipline, that influences you and others? Are you willing to pray in a way that makes you vulnerable to the prayer’s answer?

Prayer: Lord, you know my perspective on prayer. I now invite you to daily increase and grow my faith as I pray throughout Lent. Help me to be faithful in keeping up with my Lenten intentions, in God’s name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Frontline workers and behind-the-scenes workers*

**Saturday After Ash Wednesday - Mark 6:1-6 – Limited By Unbelief?**

Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” Surely, God can do great deeds without the belief of humankind. But it appears that God has chosen to include the faith and mission of his disciples in God’s mission and transformation. Let your faith in Jesus and your prayer life bring you through times of “rejection” in your “hometown.”

Prayer: Loving creator, I surrender all my unbelief about what I can do and what our congregation can do for you. Help me not to hold you back in all you want to do through me, as I stand in your awesome power, in the Messiah’s name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Adults who are needing to enable children to growth in faith*

**The First Week of Lent  
February 22-27, 2021**

**Monday - John 3:1-10, 7:45-52, 19:38-39 - Starting Where You Are**

Nicodemus. At first, he was curious ... he saw something in Jesus worth pursuing. Then he cautiously defended Jesus against some of his Pharisee colleagues. The last picture we have of Nicodemus is of an openly supportive disciple, preparing Jesus’ body for burial. Like Nicodemus, we are a work in progress.

Prayer: Lord God, you who breathed the spirit of life within me, help my life to be conformed to the image of Christ. As a work in progress, help me to want what you want. Purify my motives for you, and help me to use my life to reflect your glory and to serve others as your son Jesus did, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Those inside and outside the church who are struggling with faith*

**Tuesday – Luke 17:1-6 - Faith: Small Quantities Will Do**

While Jesus is informing the disciples that forgiving those who wrong us is a requirement of Christian discipleship, the disciples respond by asking for more faith. Jesus tells them that only a very small quantity of faith is needed to fulfil great things for God’s Kingdom.

Prayer: Loving God, as the disciples before me looked you in the eye and asked for more faith, I ask you today for the faith that can “remove mountains.” I feel your call for me deep in my heart and I sincerely want to follow you. Make my journey this Lent one of grace, forgiveness and gentle love, in Jesus’ powerful name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All who are overcome by the “mountains” they have to climb*

### **Wednesday – James 5:13-18 – Praying As Influence**

Yes, the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. But who among us is righteous? Those who think they are, surely aren't. Righteousness comes from God. Righteousness has to do with how God sees us as we are washed clean by the sacrificial love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Father of my soul, I know your love for me is limitless beyond imagining. You care for me as a loving parent. Through my smallest Lenten sacrifices, help me to become less selfish, more aware of your ways, believing that my praying will make a bigger difference than I ever believed before, through the crucified Christ. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: For Christians to believe in the immeasurable power of prayer*

### **Thursday – John 14:25-27 – Practicing Peace**

Jesus says: "... My peace I give to you." Whenever we pray with sincerity and openness, change happens. This awareness can raise anxiety. What might happen when we sincerely pray? Will my life become miserable? Jesus assured the disciples on his departure from this world that they (and us) would be filled with his peace.

Prayer: Lord, I bring to you my anxiety about praying for your will. Give me whatever level of peace I need in order to engage prayer with confidence and joy, by the grace of Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Organizations and support groups that work for peace*

### **Friday – Hebrews 4:14-16 – Praying With Confidence**

Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are tempted, but Jesus never sinned. So, Jesus understands and empathizes with all that we may face. His power is also available to help us overcome the temptations that come to us. Let us, therefore, approach God boldly.

Prayer: Creator God, who has sent your Son to live and die on my behalf, give me boldness and confidence to approach your throne of grace. Prepare me during these weeks of Lent, as I feel both deep sorrow for my sins and experience your undying love for me, in the name of the one who died on Calvary's cross, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Counsellors, pastors, leaders and all who offer pastoral care*

### **Saturday – Luke 22:39-46 – The Prayer of Surrender**

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done." Jesus offers a prayer of full surrender to the Father. Regardless of the anticipated suffering, Jesus was willing to lay down his will for the Father's will. What about us? How much do we believe and practice this?

Prayer: Loving God, what in my life needs the prayer of surrender? You know, Lord, that sometimes my heart turns in every direction except towards you. Please help me to truly surrender all to you, turning my heart toward you, to gaze upon you in trust and to seek your kingdom with all my heart, through the healing name of Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Persons with varied kinds of physical and mental challenges*

## **The Second Week of Lent March 1-6, 2021**

### **Monday – Hebrews 11:1-3 – Letting Go And Taking Hold**

Before we can take hold of God’s hopes and dreams for us, we must let go of our comforts, securities and aspirations. Faith in God often means letting go, “flying through the air,” trusting that God is there to make the catch.

Prayer: Lord, your commandment of love is so simple, yet so challenging. Show me, God, what I am holding on to that prevents me from letting go. Help me to let go of my pride and to be humble in my penance. Give me courage to let go and fly. I ask this through your son, Jesus, who stands by my side today and always. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Congregations and individual Christians who are afraid to “fly”*

### **Tuesday – Galatians 2:19-20 – Crucified With Christ**

“I have been crucified with Christ.” What does this mean? By accepting the way of the cross, Jesus accepted and lived the Father’s will rather than his own. This is what being crucified with Christ also means for us. We are called to live out God’s values, ways and mission in this world.

Prayer: God in heaven and in my life, every day I want to lay down my life in your care and be refilled with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your Spirit inspire me and make me an instrument of your love and guidance. Thank you for your care for me, through the abiding presence of Christ. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Institutions with the responsibility of guiding children in the way of truth*

### **Wednesday – Philippians 3:3-9 – Forgetting Your Credentials**

Paul, in writing to the Ephesian Christians told them that we are being saved through faith by the grace of God, that not of ourselves, it is a gift from God, less anyone should boast (Eph. 2:8). Are we willing to give up everything, all credentials, for the joy of knowing Christ?

Prayer: God of Love, through this Lenten journey, purify my desires to serve you. Free me from any temptations to judge others, to place myself above others. Please let me surrender even my impatience with others, that with your love and your grace, I might be less and less absorbed with myself and more and more full of the desire to follow you, in laying down my life according to your example, through the almighty power of God. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: The lost, the least, the last and the lonely in this world*

### **Thursday – Acts 2:43-47 – Models of Faith Community**

The New Testament Christians developed a model of faith community that became very effective for its days and its time, one where persons were filled with the Holy Spirit, everyone cared for everyone and shared all in common. What model of faith community is God inviting us to “build” today?

Prayer: Loving God, I hear your invitation to help build my faith community, to share my faith in Christ, and to love others. Lead me this day to do good works in your name. Send your Holy Spirit to guide me and strengthen my faith. I ask only to feel your love in my life today, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Congregations that are dying and Christians needing to be alive in Christ*

**Friday – Luke 9:21-27 – The Happiness Trap**

Gil Rendle says that some Christians get into the “Happiness Trap” of trying to please everybody all of the time. Yet, taking up the cross, denying ourselves and following Jesus will not always mean pleasing others nor pleasing ourselves. And the power to accomplish all these things is assuredly given us in Christ Jesus.

Prayer: Loving God, caring parent, as your child, I humbly seek your guidance in all things. Give me wisdom to know when I am straying to please myself and others. Release me from the self-absorption that closes my heart to you and to others. As I journey through Lent, let me be filled with thanks to you, through the Anointed One who gave His life for all humanity. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All caregivers, home care and hospice specialists and chaplains*

**Saturday – Philippians 2:3-5 – It’s Not About You**

So much in our culture makes us think that life is about us. Yet, this Philippian passage reminds us that Jesus humbled himself to come into this world in the form of a human being, and then during his ministry he demonstrated servant ministry when he took a towel and washed the disciples feet. What about you?

Prayer: God of infinite love, you shower me with limitless gifts in my life. In my every thought and action today guide me to the bright and loving light of your kingdom, to serve you and my fellow human beings in servant-like ministry. Let me be grateful every moment of this day, through Jesus who forgives all sins. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All who struggle to live life and all who cannot be helped by doctors*

**The Third Week of Lent  
March 8-13, 2021**

**Monday – Matthew 7:24-27 – Building on the Rock**

The wise person builds his/her house on the rock, so that when the floods come, and the winds blow that house will stand. Are there things in our lives or in our congregation that are being built on the sand, whereby the floods will destroy without a moment’s notice? What changes do I need to make this Lenten Season?

Prayer: Merciful God, I offer my life to you for reconstruction. Rebuild my life and my congregation’s life. Help me to so build that others’ lives may be impacted by the witness of a firm foundation on Jesus Christ my Lord, in the name of the divine one, Jesus the Christ. Amen

*Community Prayer Focus: Church leaders, Sunday school teachers and church workers*

**Tuesday – 1 Kings 19:11-13 – Listening More Than Talking**

How does God speak to you? How are we supposed to hear, understand, or discern God’s voice when we do all the talking? Sometimes God speaks in a still small voice. God may be whispering or blowing or in some other way trying to communicate with you.

Prayer: God of infinite love, I thank you for this reminder that I need to quiet myself and listen to you every day of my life. Help me to write down the thoughts you give to me daily. Help me to spend more time in prayer listening as I make space for your voice, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All the busy people of the world living in the hustle and bustle of life*

**Wednesday – 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 – Being Sure Whose You Are**

God has laid claim to you. God has adopted you into his family. God has put his seal on you, and has given you his Spirit. Rest in this awareness. Realize this reality. Know that nothing can take you away from God once God has made you his own.

Prayer: God, I thank you that even in the loneliest times in my life I will never be alone. You are with me. I am glad that you love me as your own child. May I always bend my life and will toward you, so that I might feel your support in my life, now and in the eternal life you are preparing for me, in God's precious name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: People in my community who need a Godly presence in their lives*

**Thursday – John 3:16 – God Loves You ... Period**

"We cannot do anything to make God love us more, and we cannot do anything to make God love us less," says Philip Yancey. God's love is not based on how good or bad we are. God's love is based on the character of God. All we need to do is to receive, and quit trying to earn it.

Prayer: Loving God, this Lenten Season, I want to receive your love at a deeper level and to let go of trying to earn it. Help me to trust you that much. Holy Spirit guide me and strengthen my faith. I ask only to feel your love in my life every day, through the eternal One who freely gave his life for me. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All who feel unloved by humanity and those who have rejected your love*

**Friday – Ephesians 2:10 – God Has A Calling For You to Fulfill**

God has a plan for our lives and invites us to fit into that plan. God accepts us just as we are, and then God has something for us to do. At Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus in the New Testament, his first question was: "Lord what do you want me to do for you? What now is your calling?"

Prayer: God of Mercy, give me the eyes to see and the ears to hear your calling for me and my congregation. I ask for your help in my weakness that I might be faithful to your word. I am very grateful that your mercy for my failings is as strong as your unbounded love for me, through the Shepherd of my soul, I pray. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Christians who have a hard time responding to God's call*

**Saturday – Philippians 3:12-14 – The Organizing Principle**

We are being formed in the image of God to live the way of Jesus Christ. Then, the call of God in Christ Jesus becomes our "organizing principle." We orient ourselves around Jesus Christ. Therefore, our family, career finances and relationships reflect this organizing principle.

Prayer: God of all power, please help me to make Jesus Christ the center of my life and my congregation. I know that with your help I can open my heart more fully to the mysteries of the suffering and death of your son. I await the joy of Easter with new longing, through the One who rose from the dead on the third day. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All paraplegics, and those with debilitating diseases*

## **The Fourth Week of Lent March 15-20, 2021**

### **Monday – Romans 12:1-2, 8:28-30 – Transformed People**

Here is the story of God's grace: though we have been formed in the image of God and deformed by sin, yet we are being informed by the Gospel, transformed by the blood of Christ, reformed by the grace of God, and conformed by the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ and to the will of God. Are you being daily transformed?

Prayer: God who created me, you offer me new life through your Son and through the gift of your sacraments. While I see new life all around me, I want to be truly transformed. Show me what new values, actions and perspectives I need to embrace. Give me the courage to do so, through the Savior Christ. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Persons struggling to find faith and those struggling in their faith*

### **Tuesday – John 13:31-35 – The Great Commandment**

Jesus made it clear that the first and foremost way others will know that we are disciples is our love for one another. This is not simply the great suggestion, nor the great idea, but it is the great commandment - a command from Jesus to all his followers. How great a follower are you?

Prayer: Lord God, help me to confess when any bitterness or resentment toward others arise in my life. Please strengthen my resolve to love other disciples, to love all people, especially those who think and act differently from myself. Also, help my congregation to be truly loving every day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Congregations, families, communities broken by strife and discord*

### **Wednesday – Matthew 28:16-20 – The Great Commission**

It is indeed remarkable that God trusts us enough to include us in God's mission in the world. We are actually called to participate in making additional disciples. This means bringing new people into the faith and then strengthening and supporting them in their Christian formation process. Use me Lord in making disciples.

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, forgive me for not always participating in this commission from Christ. Help me to help my congregation in the making and forming of other disciples, even when you call me to extra spend time in your mission, through Jesus' merciful love. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Christians witnessing in non-Christian or hostile communities*

### **Thursday – Matthew 25:31-46 – Criteria For Success**

Success can sometimes be a misnomer or a misleading term in Christianity. Sometimes, success is measured by the number of buildings, bodies and budgets the congregation has, rather than the real foci on faithfulness, witness, mission and transformation of lives. Are you and your congregation successful in God's standards?

Prayer: Merciful God, I know that the tiny sacrifices I make this Lent can never serve as a real penance in my life. Help that my standard of success be that of Jesus' life example, and to make my whole life one of following your Son in sacrificial service for you, in the name of Christ who wants to shine through me. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Congregations and followers who are focused on things of this world*



### **Friday – Philippians 4:10-19 – Trust God For What You Need**

Many Christian disciples over the years have found that God is faithful, even in their times of unfaithfulness. God does what God says by providing everything we need according to his riches in glory. All your needs for each “journey” will be supplied as needed. Will you trust God with your needs and your congregations needs?

Prayer: Loving God, you are Jehovah-Jireh (one who provides). You provided for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and for all the fore-parents of our faith. Boldly increase my faith to believe that you will equip my life for your highest mission and equip our congregation for your greatest service, through your Holy Son Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Children and youth who have questions about faith in Christ*

### **Saturday – Psalm 37:3-5 – The Desires Of Your Heart**

God will give us the desires of our hearts. Isn't this a little puzzling? No, not when we first delight in the Lord. When we center our lives in Christ, laying aside our sinful ways and our selfish desires, then we discover that our hearts begin to beat like God's heart. Our focus grows more Christ-like.

Prayer: Lord, what you ask of my life seems so right. It is how I want to live, following your Son, Jesus, so closely. And yet I fail so often to stay on that path. I cannot do it alone, loving Lord. I need your help and guidance. Help me to so delight in you that I reflect the desires of your heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Seniors and elderly who have difficulty reflecting your heart*

## **The Fifth Week of Lent March 22-27, 2021**

### **Monday – Acts 2:1-4 – Follow The Energy**

The Holy Spirit came to those in the Upper Room as a rushing wind, filled with energy. This same Holy Spirit still desires to enliven us for daily service and ministry. In times of low energy, disappointment, failure, weak-ness, the Holy Spirit promises new energy. Are you always open to receive God's fresh Spirit?

Prayer: Holy Spirit of God, I know that you are the source of all that is good and all that have graced my life. Help me to trust you to empower and guide me, even in the weakest times of my life. You know what I need to prepare for your kingdom. Bless me with those gifts, by God's grace and mercy. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: The outpouring of your Holy Spirit in every Christian congregation*

### **Tuesday - Acts 2:43-47 – Gathered Community of Disciples**

When Jesus' disciples band together in groups they become very effective as a community of faith. How do they relate? What do they do with their combined resources? What's their purpose for being? Christianity began as a movement with little institutional structure. What can we learn from these early Christians?

Prayer: Loving God, thank you that as a band of Christians we can achieve so much for you. Help me to think beyond my own wants to your desires and the needs of others. Thank you for the many

blessings in my life and for the ways I feel your presence, through the omnipresent God in my life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Organizations that care for the needy and poverty-stricken*

**Wednesday – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Consistent With Holy Scripture**

One purpose of the Scriptures is to provide a check and balance for us. Is the vision we are seeing consistent with what we see in the Bible? Is this vision lining up with that of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission? Is this vision in sync with the ministry and teachings of Jesus in the four Gospels?

Prayer: Loving Creator, I ask for your continuous insight into the meaning of Scripture, especially during this Lenten Season, as we work our way toward Good Friday and Easter. Be with me in both mind and heart as I renew my life in your spirit, through the divine presence of the One who so long ago died on “an old rugged cross” for me. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: All who struggle to practice Scriptural holiness*

**Thursday – Psalm 148 – Your God Is Too Small**

In 1961, J. B. Phillips wrote a book called “Your God is Too Small.” He described how we have limited God, making God “man-sized.” Consider the vision that is developing for you and the vision that’s developing for your church. Can it be achieved without God’s intervention or power? Then, your image of God is too small?

Prayer: Lord, help me not to limit your mission by my small thinking. Help me to see the unlimited capacity that is available through your presence and power. Help us in our congregation to expand our vision to see the great things that you wish to accomplish beyond our narrow vision, in the name of our omnipotent God. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: For more visionary leaders in our communities and congregations*

**Friday – Matthew 6:9-15 – On Earth As It Is In Heaven**

Did Jesus really mean this? Did Jesus really want us to pray, with faith and trust in the possibility, that God’s kingdom could come on earth as it is in heaven? Yes. God wants his kingdom of peace, justice and love to be enacted right here, right now. What would it mean for God’s kingdom to come more fully through you?

Prayer: O Heavenly God, who cares about what happens on earth as well as in heaven, help me to care and work so that your kingdom be experienced among all people on earth, and that all people would trust you for a place in your everlasting kingdom in heaven. I pray this in the name of our ever-living God, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: People in crises/catastrophes, the homeless, and those without Christ*

**Saturday – Matthew 6:9-15 – God’s Hopes And Dreams**

“Thy will be done on earth.” God’s will and God’s desires are for people on earth. What are God’s hopes, dreams, wishes for this world? How might each of us and each congregation fulfil God’s will? As you pray in penitence this Season, may God show you his will for your life and ministry, as well as his will for your congregation.

Prayer: Loving God, help me to know and carry out your divine will for my life, the unique purpose for which I am in this world. Help my congregation to decipher its unique purpose in the place where

you have established it, and its special role in these difficult days of pandemic, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

*Community Prayer Focus: The marginalized, disenfranchised, misused and abused persons.*

## **Holy Week** **March 29 - April 3, 2021**

### **Monday - Matthew 11:28-30 – Living at The Peak**

How can God's calling for us be easy? Or God's burden be light? When our lives and congregations are aligned with God's intentions and purposes, the burdens do become lighter. When we are at the peak of doing God's will, the burdens become lighter. Following Christ, then, seems nearly effortless and everything flows.

Prayer: God of love, I realize that I cannot make peak happen, but I can participate with you to ready myself. Help me to reach peak so that I may know your intentions and purposes. Lead me and your church into the future with courage and faith, through the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Those who never reach the peak of their lives due to extreme fear*

### **Tuesday - Joshua 1:1-9 – Courage to Go There**

"You don't want to go there." This is a common warning that you are about to get into unpleasant territory. However, when it comes to discerning God's vision, the motto is, "You do want to go there!" Yes. You will serve at a higher level and sometimes face challenges. Yet, God will provide the courage you need. Go there.

Prayer: God of such unwavering love, your vision sometimes seem expansive, scary and daunting, but with you in the vessel, I can smile at the storm. I do want to "go there" Lord, wherever "there" will be. I trust you to give courage, vision and strength to accomplish all of your goals, in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Prayer groups, fasting groups, monasteries and retreat centers*

### **Wednesday - Acts 16:6-10 – Come to Macedonia**

There are many in this world who actually need you and your congregation in order to discern God's vision for moving ahead. They need this because they are spiritually seeking, personally hurting or in need of some other way that you can address. May you know how to implement God's Kingdom among real people with real needs.

Prayer: My Savior, help me to remain focused on God's mission, rather than my comfort. Help me to respond to those who call on me and those you send me to, and to share the glory of the resurrection with them. Help me to be humble and accepting like your son, Jesus, through your powerful victory at the Cross. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Church community support groups and their participants*

### **Maundy Thursday - Colossians 3:23-24 – A Time To Work**

There is a time for everything. After God gives the vision to you and/or your congregation, then comes the hard work of implementation. Are you motivated by a challenge? Jesus went into the wilderness to prepare for his life-giving mission. Are you ready to fulfil God's calling to be the person of God in this place at this time?

Prayer: God of all power, give me the strength to be ready to roll up my sleeves and get busy with God's calling for me, as well for my congregation. It was on this Holy Thursday night, that Jesus told his disciples to "love one another." As Christ's body, together, we want to work hard for you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: Persons in rehabilitation and treatment centers*

**Good Friday – Mark 15:21-25 – And there they crucified him**

At the beginning of this 40-day journey, we recalled Jesus going into the wilderness to prepare spiritually for his coming sacrificial mission of giving his life for the sins of all humanity, and he returned to start his 3-year journey toward the cross. Now, as we near the end of our 40-day Lenten journey, we recall Jesus' crucifixion. Isaac Watts' hymn inspires us: "It was at the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith, I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day."

Prayer: My Lord, your Son has suffered so much, shed so much blood. Sometimes, my nature is so full of weakness. Yet, your Son Jesus has died on the cross for me. I know that your grace has the power to cleanse me of my many sins and to make me more like your Son. Thank you for your goodness and love for me and all people. I ask you, Father, to watch over me – always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: For the spread of the Gospel to every community of the world*

**Holy Saturday – Luke 23:54-56 - Holy Saturday**

Holy Saturday is the last day of Lent and commemorates the day that Jesus Christ lay in the tomb after his death. It is the day after Good Friday and the day before Easter Sunday. It was on this day that the women rested, intending to anoint the body of Jesus on Sunday morning. It was also on this day that Pilate had Jesus' tomb sealed and had set a group of soldiers to guard the tomb. But, as the song writer, Lowry, says: "Up from the grave He Arose" early on the Sunday morning, and, as another song writer, Ely, says, we know that one day "Ain't no grave gonna hold our bodies down" - no grave. Hallelujah.

Prayer: God of abundant grace, you shower us with your limitless love and you have wonderfully inspired us through this Lenten Season. On this last day of Lent, we pray for new strength and invigoration as we again anticipate tomorrow's joyous celebration of Easter. In my every thought, word and action today guide me to the bright and loving light of your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Community Prayer Focus: The joyous ministry of all Christians around the world  
proclaiming the good news of Christ to the world*

*\*Daily Scriptures and Sub-Themes taken from Mark Tidsworth's  
"40 Days of Prayer: Preparing Ourselves for God's Calling"  
2012 - Pinnacle Leadership Press*