

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

ADVENT 2020
DAILY PRAYER GUIDE



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Many thanks to Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas for this collection of Advent readings and prayers.

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CEPC PRAYER GUIDE INTRODUCTION

This guide has a simple aim: to help us grow in our love for God through time in his Word and prayer. The Bible teaches that in order to love God, we need a relationship with him. Though we had caused alienation from God by our sin, God himself has nevertheless provided for that relationship in his overcoming the alienation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son. In union with Christ, we now have intimate access to God as our heavenly Father. Scripture and prayer are the means through which we experience, apply, and enjoy that relationship. As we learn to pray, and as we learn to listen and obey the gracious overtures of God's Word, we learn to live as God's children, loving and trusting him more fully.

WHY DAILY PRAYER?

Why set aside fixed times every day for prayer? Why not simply pray unprompted, when the stirring comes? Practically speaking, we are creatures attuned to rhythms. We order our lives by sunrises and sunsets, by hours, weeks, seasons, and years. Daily prayer is a way of consecrating our ordinary rhythms to God, ensuring that all of life is offered to Him. C. S. Lewis once wrote, "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." And so it must. Our relationship with God should take hold of our schedules, as well as our hearts.

WHY A PRAYER GUIDE?

Here are a few compelling reasons to use a prayer guide:

1. It helps us to pray regularly.
Sometimes we may not pray regularly because we may not know where to begin. A prayer guide takes the pressure off needing to make that decision anew every day. It repeatedly says, "Start here" and let God's Word lead you into prayer.
2. It helps us to pray biblically.
We will read through the Psalms, a book of the Bible meant especially for prayer and worship. One of the encouraging messages reiterated in the Psalms is that you do not have to put on a happy face to live the Christian life. Praying biblically allows us to pray the truth of who we are while growing in the hope of who we might yet become.
3. It helps us to pray communally.
Though we are praying individually, we are doing so together, specifically as a church body. This guide is meant for this flock, in this time and place. To know that others with whom God has joined us are reading and praying the same words encourages us in our common journey. Prayer is a communal activity as much as an individual one.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use this guide however it may be helpful to you. For many, that means using it just as it is. For those who are in the habit of family worship, you can adapt the guide to read and pray together as a family.

Here are suggestions for each of the elements:

Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is God's initiating with you through his Word. Read the call, perhaps out loud. Receive God's invitation to worship him as spoken to you in that moment.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise God for who he is as he has shown in his Word and in your life. Thank him for his presence and gifts in your life.

Readings

Our Advent & Christmas Daily Prayer Guide theme is “The Word Became Flesh.” Join us wherever you find yourself over Advent and Christmas as we read and pray together through the Psalms. Get to know the words here, and you will better know Jesus himself. The other Scripture Readings for this season are drawn from various passages in the Old and New Testaments that outline the unfolding work of God’s grace in redeeming a people for himself. These passages establish our need for a Messiah and celebrate Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and King. May the story of God’s Word fill us with a vibrant hope in Jesus Christ this Advent & Christmas season.

Questions for Meditation

We have given three questions to help create space and encouragement to listen and obey the Word of God. Use these questions to guide you as you go back to circle, highlight, or write notes in the margins.

Prayer of Confession

This is an opportunity to repent for the ways we have missed the mark and to receive the grace we need for renewal and change. Ask God for mercy. Ask him to help you become more like Christ.

Prayer of Supplication

We will give a new opportunity each day for you to lift up people and ministries in our community and around the world. You may also lay out before God whatever burdens you carry as well as those others carry.

Weekly Collect

The Weekly Collect is a way to conclude. All of the closing prayers draw from *The Book of Common Prayer*. They are called “collects” because they gather our prayers together and present them before God collectively as we go about our scattered lives. Pray this prayer as your own in the confidence that others are praying with you.

Sundays

Sundays are unique as our time to gather and worship as a church family, to celebrate once again the victory of Christ over sin and death. There are only Psalm readings on Sunday because the liturgy of corporate worship is our primary focus.

A Note for Families

This prayer guide can be a great tool for times of family worship. We suggest letting any of those who are able take turns reading each element. This ensures that everyone is involved in both hearing and speaking the Word of God with one another. During the Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving, you may each say something aloud, no matter how short or clumsy (we are all learners!). During the Prayer of Confession, take a minute to pray to God personally in the quiet of your own thoughts. This is just one way to use the guide as a family. We encourage you to explore how it might best help your own worship and devotion in your lives together.

As a final word, there are many great reading plans, devotionals, and exercises to encourage in us a life of prayer. This is a way to pray, only one among many that has grown up in the history of God's people. Most important is not the method, but the reality of loving and trusting God. May your relationship with him grow.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Scripture reading: [Psalm 92](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Call to Worship

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. 18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 1:1-2](#)

Scripture Reading: [Genesis 3:1-15](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Widows, elderly, and homebound in our church family

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Call to Worship

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 1:3-6](#)

Scripture Reading: [Isaiah 9:2-17](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Healing and reconciliation in broken relationships

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Call to Worship

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. 5 Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 2:1-6](#)

Scripture Reading: [Isaiah 11:1-9](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Families who have lost loved ones this year

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Call to Worship

4 Behold, God is my helper; the LORD is the upholder of my life. (Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 2:7-12](#)

Scripture Reading: [Micah 5:2-4](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Homeless in our city

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Call to Worship

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 103:1-5](#)

Scripture Reading: [Isaiah 53](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Sick and suffering in our city

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Call to Worship

5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. (Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 103:6-10](#)

Scripture Reading: [Malachi 4](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Orphans in our city

Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture reading: [Psalm 92](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Call to Worship

27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! (Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 103:11-19](#)

Scripture Reading: [Genesis 12:1-3,7](#); [Galatians 3:15-16](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Your family

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Call to Worship

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope... (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 119:174-176](#)

Scripture Reading: [Exodus 20:1-17](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Your neighbors

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Call to Worship

12 I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
(Psalm 86:12)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 23](#)

Scripture Reading: [Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Your coworkers, classmates, and people you see every day

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Call to Worship

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! (145:10)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 126](#)

Scripture Reading: [Luke 1:5-25](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Your City Group

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Call to Worship

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
[The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] (Psalm 145:13)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 123](#)

Scripture Reading: [Luke 1:26-45](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Our government leaders

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Call to Worship

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.
(Psalm 145:21)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 9:1-2](#)

Scripture Reading: [Luke 1:46-56](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

Our first responders

Weekly Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture reading: [Psalm 92](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Call to Worship

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 89:1-4](#)

Scripture Reading: [Luke 1:57-80](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All who are weary and need rest

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Call to Worship

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 116:8-9](#)

Scripture Reading: [Revelation 21:1-8](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All who mourn and long for comfort

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Call to Worship

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 66](#)

Scripture Reading: [Revelation 21:9-27](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All feel worthless and wonder if God cares

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Call to Worship

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 46:4-9](#)

Scripture Reading: [Micah 4:1-7](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All who fail and desire strength

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Call to Worship

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 16:5-11](#)

Scripture Reading: [Genesis 22:1-14](#), [Hebrews 11:17-19](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All who sin and need a Savior

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Call to Worship

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 89:1-4](#)

Scripture Reading: [Genesis 28:10-22](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

All who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Weekly Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture reading: [Psalm 92](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Call to Worship

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 8:3-9](#)

Scripture Reading: [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

How God may be calling each person to connect with new relationships

Weekly Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Call to Worship

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 27:13-14](#)

Scripture Reading: [Titus 2:11-3:7](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

The transforming presence of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Houston and to the world

Weekly Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Call to Worship

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him... (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 89:20,28-29](#)

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

CEPC's witness to employees in business near the church

Weekly Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Call to Worship

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 27:1](#)

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

For all who will come, that we would be a church who opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

Weekly Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Call to Worship

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Psalm Reading: [Psalm 8:1-2](#)

Scripture Reading: [Luke 2:1-21](#)

Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Supplication

For CEPC to make disciples who love Christ, his Word, and his Church through the ordinary means of grace

Weekly Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.