

40 Days of Prayer



# ***FORWARD IN FAITH***

DISCERNMENT PRAYER GUIDE | 2022

## **40 DAYS OF PRAYER**

DAYS 1-20



# 40 Days of Prayer

## DAY 1 | A PRAYER FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."*

*Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1:7a*

Gracious and Wise King,

You are all powerful, all knowing and always present in our lives, our church and our world. We thank You for Your unfailing love, abiding grace and enduring faithfulness displayed to us through Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. We come before Your presence as a people of faith with humble and reverent hearts to worship and adore You.

Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that we need Your wisdom, guidance and knowledge as we seek the Father's good and perfect will in our lives and in the life of our church. Heavenly Father, we want to know Your will, Your ways and Your timing. We want to know Your heart before we move ahead. We trust You, knowing that You hold our future and the future of our church in the palm of Your hand. Loving God, thank You for all You have already done in and through this church these last 44 years and all You will continue to do to build Your church for God's kingdom glory and praise. We ask this in the name of our Triune King — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## DAY 2 | A SEEKING PRAYER

*"Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore."*

*Psalms 105:4; Isaiah 55:6*

Heavenly Father,

You are ever-present in our lives. We are so thankful that when we seek You, You let us find You in the small and quiet moments of our day. We come seeking Your face today. We want to see You and know You in more intimate and deeper ways. Holy Spirit, enable us to see Your face in the lives of those around us. Help us to love as You love and to reflect Christ's light, grace and beauty to all we encounter. Lord Jesus, strengthen us and transform us to be like You and to reflect Your image to a world that needs to see the truth of who You are. We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 3 | A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

*“For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth came knowledge and understanding.”*

*Proverbs 2:6*

All Knowing God,

You know the end from the beginning, and we praise You for it. We thank You for speaking forth wisdom through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, lead us deeper into Your Living Word where we can know true wisdom by following in Your ways and knowing Your heart. Holy Spirit, speak into our lives what is true, right, praiseworthy and lovely. Then use us to go into the world with a heart of love, gentleness, grace and mercy. May we reflect Your wisdom and understanding in how we live and how we love others. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

### DAY 4 | A PRAYER FOR OUR LEAD PASTOR

*“Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can judge this great people of Yours.”*

*2 Chronicles 1:10*

Great Shepherd of Our Souls,

You always lead us beside still, peaceful waters and to greener pastures of grace. We humble our hearts before You, acknowledging that we can only stand in Your presence because of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. We thank you for drawing us into Your family and into Your loving embrace. We also thank You for our Lead pastor and shepherd of this flock, Heather Sims. Holy Spirit, pour out Your spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and power and the fear of the Lord. May she delight in the fear of the Lord.

Shepherd her heart, as she shepherds the flock of God to the place of Your leading. Fill her daily afresh with the Spirit’s anointing. Carve out time and space for her to meet with You and daily hear the message of Your heart. We praise You and thank You for choosing Pastor Heather to lead this great people of Yours “for such a time as this.” We ask this in the name of our Sovereign King — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 5 | A PRAYER FOR REVELATION

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.*

*Ephesians 1:15-19*

Father of Glory,

You alone are worthy of all praise and glory! We thank You for the privilege of worshipping and serving You at Cornerstone United Methodist Church. We thank You for this community of faith that believes in the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ and loves Your saints both here and around the world. We thank You for all the members of this family of faith. Lord Jesus, give us as Your people a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know You more intimately. Holy Spirit, open the eyes of our understanding that we might know the hope of our calling, that we might receive all the riches of our inheritance in You, and we might experience in greater ways the power of Christ's resurrection that lives within us. May we not keep this indescribable gift to ourselves but live it out in a world that needs to know Your powerful wisdom, love and grace. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

### DAY 6 | A PRAYER FOR HUMILITY

*"Yes, all of you be submissive to one another and be clothed with humility for 'God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."*

*1 Peter 5:5,6*

Almighty God,

We acknowledge that we are members of a greater Kingdom community with all the saints. So, we submit ourselves to You and to one another. We humble our hearts before Your mighty hand and ask that You would fill our hearts with Your spirit of compassion, tenderness and grace. Help us to look to others as more important than ourselves and to have the same mind as Christ who took on the form of a servant for humanity's sake.

Lord Jesus, You tell us that apart from You we can do nothing.

Therefore, we submit ourselves to Your authority asking that You would lead us and guide us as a people of faith. Remove pride from our hearts and help us to value one another in meekness and grace so that our lives may reflect Christ as we journey forward. We ask this in the name of the One who humbled Himself and died on the cross for our sin. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 7 | A PRAYER OF RETURN

*“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.”*

*Joel 2:12-13*

Gracious and Merciful God,

You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We praise You for Your display of loving-kindness towards us. Thank You for not dealing with us according to our sins but according to Your great mercy and grace in Jesus Christ. We come to You with our whole hearts and not with any external merits on our own. Holy Spirit, reveal the parts of our hearts that we have not surrendered completely to You and illuminate the sins we frequently ignore. In mourning and weeping, we repent of our sins and ask that You renew us again according to Your *chesed* — Your covenant love and kindness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### DAY 8 | A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

*So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."*

*Isaiah 6:5-7*

Holy God,

The brilliance of Your glory and the beauty of Your holiness overwhelms us and leaves us undone. We are not worthy to stand in Your holy presence as sinful, broken individuals. But because of Your great love for us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and transferred us into the light of Your redeeming love. Holy Father, forgive us for all the ways we sin against You through gossip, backbiting, criticism and unwholesome words. Place Your holy coal upon our lips and remove the guilt of our sin. Lord Jesus, set a watchman over our lips that we might not sin against You by speaking against our neighbor. Transform our speech that we might speak words of life, blessing and well-being. Holy Spirit, enable us to use our words to encourage one another and build on another up that we might reflect the kindness of Your heart and the beauty of Your holy love to those around us. In Your holy name. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 9 | A PRAYER OF CLEANSING

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*Psalm 51:10*

Forgiving Father,

Your heart is always to forgive as we repent of our sins and return to You with a repentant and contrite heart. Thank You for the cleansing blood of Jesus that always cleanses and restores us to a right relationship with You. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Renew our thoughts to be pure, our spirit to be joyful and our actions to be selfless. Holy Spirit, restore to us the joy of our salvation and give us a steadfast spirit to always abound in Christ's loving actions in the world. We consecrate ourselves to You, knowing we are Your beloved disciples. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### DAY 10 | A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."*

*Isaiah 6:8*

Missional God,

Your eyes look to and fro through all the earth seeking a heart that is fully surrendered to You. Because of Christ's redeeming love and atoning blood, we are a people cleansed from sin, forgiven, saved from the grip of Satan, and free to go where You send us as a people of faith. Like Isaiah, we say, "*Here we are! Send us!*" Holy Spirit, empower us to go into the world to spread the good news of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, anoint us and use us to be agents of Your healing love and comforting grace to a world that is hurting and in pain.

Heavenly Father, send us to the least, the lost, the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten to partner with You to spread Your lavished love upon those who need to know they are seen and remembered by You. We are Your people, called by Your name, delivered from shame. We are one holy race, saints everyone, called to declare the excellencies of our Glorious King who called us out from darkness and into Your marvelous light. Send us in Christ's holy name and for His glory alone. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 11 | A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR OUR TRIUNE GOD

*“Praise be to You, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to God. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name.”*

*1 Chronicles 29:10b–13*

Triune King,

You are the one true, holy and living God. We praise You as the Eternal God, Creator, Redeemer, true Judge and only wise Ruler. We thank You for holding us in the palm of Your hand as the sovereign preserver and sustainer of life. Thank You for bringing us into Your eternal embrace through the precious blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. You spoke creation into existence, and You speak life, blessing and well-being into our lives as well. Because of Your unfailing love, mercy, wisdom and grace, we bow in humble adoration and respond to Your grace by surrendering our hearts and lives to You. We ask that You lead us by Your strong and mighty hand. Holy Spirit, awaken us to the wonders of Your manifold love, beauty and grace around us that we might glorify You in greater ways. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

### DAY 12 | A PRAYER OF EXALTATION FOR CHRIST OUR KING

*“He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things exist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”*

*Colossians 1:15–18*

Lord Jesus,

You are the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten of the Father — truly God and truly man. As ministering servant, You lived to show us the Father’s heart by loving the lost, healing the sick, comforting the lonely, driving out demons, and, ultimately, suffering and dying for our sins on the cross so we might experience newness of life in You. Through Your death and resurrection, we too are raised to new life again. You are the eternal Savior and mediator of humanity, bringing us to the Father and interceding for us in heaven at the right hand of God. Jesus, You are head of the church — Your body and beloved bride. We ask that You guide us in the paths that lead to life eternal. Holy Spirit, renew us daily that we might reflect our true self, created in the image of God in Christ. We ask in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 13 | A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

*John 14:26*

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

Holy Spirit,

You are the *ruach* — the wind and life-giving breath of God. We praise You as the third person of the Trinity who leads and guides us into all truth and into the fellowship of the church through Jesus Christ. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on us. Comfort, sustain, correct, sanctify and empower us to live faithful obedient lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill us daily that we might be the fragrance and beauty of Christ, spreading the aroma of His love and life to those around us. We ask this in the name of our Triune God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### DAY 14 | A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR GOD’S LIVING WORD — THE BIBLE

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

*2 Timothy 3:16–17*

Living God, You breathed Your words onto papyrus and parchment so that Your creation would know You and Your holy ways. Through Your Word, You reveal the heart of Your redeeming love and grace. Thank You for sending Jesus — the Living Word — who teaches, instructs, leads and guides us to righteous living through His life and example. Thank You that Your Word is also a sword — active and living and able to pierce through to the bone and marrow. Warrior King, enable us to hide Your Word in our hearts through memorization, and then allow us to speak it forth to plant seeds of truth, light, love and grace to a culture that needs to know You. Holy Spirit, lead us daily to the banquet table of God’s Holy Word that we might be fed with life-giving bread. Nourish our souls and make us strong in You. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.



## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 15 | A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

*“Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’”*

*Matthew 16:16–19*

Lord of All,

You have brought us into Your family, Your community of faith — the church — by the precious blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, and You filled us with Your very presence through the indwelling Holy Spirit. We thank You for the Christian church as the community of all true believers under the lordship of Jesus. We believe in one holy, apostolic, catholic and universal church under the authority of our Redeemer and Messiah King, Jesus Christ. Father, thank You for the fellowship of faith where we are fed by Your life-giving Word of Truth preached by anointed, called and Spirit-filled servants of God. Thank You for the sacraments that You administered through Christ’s appointment. Holy Spirit, ignite in us a fire each week as we worship God in spirit and in truth. Enable us to follow Christ into the world to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Give us hearts to build Your church by exemplifying Christ’s command to love God and love others for the fulfillment of God’s rule and reign in the world. Give us a deeper love for Your church — Your beloved bride and body. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### DAY 16 | A PRAYER OF BAPTISM REMEMBRANCE

*“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4*  
*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

*Ephesians 4:4–6*

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

You have freed us from sin and given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed us into Your holy people — the family of faith. God, in water You create life and in water You wash us. In water, You bind us in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In water, You mark us in the love of Jesus Christ. Father, we thank You for our baptism and ask that our lives would be shaped by the Spirit’s sanctifying love and transforming grace. Lord Jesus, help us today to order our lives that others might see You more clearly in our words and actions. Holy Spirit, wash us afresh that we might reflect You by the way that we live and the way that we love. In the name of our Triune God we pray. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 17 | A PRAYER OF EUCHARIST

*“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’”*

*Luke 22:19*

Lamb of God,

You gave Yourself fully and freely to us in obedience to God to open heaven’s gates and provide a way back to our Father’s embrace. Your body was broken so that we might be made whole, and Your blood was shed so that we might be washed of our sins, forgiven and free to love and serve You. We thank You for the sacrament of Holy Communion where we remember Your sacrifice for us, and we partake of our family meal and are nourished with spiritual food and drink. In the Greek, *eucharistia* is thanksgiving. May our lives reflect the gratitude in our hearts for all You have done and provided for us through Your sacrificial redeeming love. Holy Spirit, help our lives to be a living eucharist to the glory of God our King. In Jesus’ holy name. Amen.

### DAY 18 | A PRAYER FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART

*“Teach me Your ways, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth, give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name.”*

*Psalm 86:11*

O Lord,

Your ways are higher than our ways, and Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. In Your Word are eternal treasures and nuggets of life-giving truths. Teach us Your ways, guide us with Your holy truth, and enable us to walk in the light of Your love and righteousness. Father, give us an undivided heart that hungers and burns in love for You alone. Holy Spirit, enable us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling today as followers of Jesus Christ. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## 40 Days of Prayer

### DAY 19 | A PRAYER FOR PRESENCE

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”*

*Romans 12:15–16*

Loving God,

You meet us where we are in our brokenness, our sorrows and our pains, but also in our joys and celebrations. You likewise call us to meet people where they are and to be fully present with those around us. Lord Jesus, You are present with us and *within* us. Your presence is likewise a gift we can offer to those we interact with each day. Holy Spirit, enable us to rejoice with those who are rejoicing, but also weep with those who are weeping. Let us not shy away from the pains and sorrows of life but offer ourselves to those who are hurting. Help us to be of the same mind towards others and to listen attentively as they share their hearts, thoughts, burdens and lives with us. As we listen to them, help us listen to You and the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit. We are here with You and for You — fully present. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

### DAY 20 | A PRAYER FOR A GENEROUS HOSPITALITY

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*

*Hebrews 13:2*

Merciful God and Gracious Host,

We approach You with appreciative hearts and attentive ears. Jesus, look down from Your seat at the right hand of the Father and embolden us to be people of hospitality who make sure those who would ask for crumbs be given the delicacies of our table. Let us proclaim those we meet in our neighborhoods as honored guests, and may we join heaven in celebrating when the world’s prodigals come home. Heavenly Father, do not let us stop at hospitality for its own sake, but spur us through the power of the Holy Spirit to graciously usher our guests into a salvific relationship with Christ Jesus. Generous Father, open our hearts, our homes, our offices and our workspaces to be welcoming places for others to experience the love and hospitality of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.