

PRAYER GUIDE

Prayer Focus — January 15-21, 2017

For Pastor Deryk's Jan. 15 sermon, *Seeking God's Face*, [click here](#) in PDF or go to firstchurch.org/audio

For our 6:30 p.m. prayer gathering on Wednesday, Jan. 18, [click here](#) in PDF or go to firstchurch.org/prayer

Dear Friend,

We pray you are seeing God's miracles everywhere – in answered prayers, in beauty, in the renewal that the Holy Spirit brings.

Thank you for committing to this time of prayer. May Jesus use every hour in your life for His eternal glory.

We will begin each day with a short passage. Feel free to use this Scripture as a guide for your prayer. Spend a few moments reading the passage. Ask God to speak to you through these words.

1. **Reverence:** Praise Him for the promises given in the passage. Try to apply those promises to your life, to the church and to our nation.
2. **Response:** Given these promises, how will you rightly respond? How can you pray for the will of God to be established in your life, remaining free from fear and doubt?
3. **Requests:** Each day will have a guide for different areas that you can pray about.
4. **Readiness:** Ask God to protect you from temptation, danger, and confusion. Pray for His protection, grace, and favor.

Let us begin together!

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, knit my prayers together with my brothers and sisters who are also praying today. Strengthen us in our faith as we dwell in Your Presence. We surrender to Your will this day.

Cleanse us from any negative thinking or despair and hopelessness. Cleanse us also from judgmental or critical thinking. Help us to remember that You **will** answer as we pray.

In Christ's love,

The Pastors

Sunday, January 15

Lord, we dedicate this time to You. With all our hearts, we welcome you, Jesus. Dear Holy Spirit, fill us to overflowing. Anoint us with Your power and wisdom as we pray. Thank You, Lord, that You will guide me as I pray.

Today's prayer passage is Isaiah 57:18-19:

*I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;
I will guide him and restore comfort to him,
Creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel.
Peace, peace, to those far and near,
Says the Lord. "And I will heal them."*

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

A time of Reverence: Let us praise Him for His guidance, healing, comfort, and peace.

Response: Jesus, help me honor You by my prayers. As I pray, help me to focus on Your loving Presence, that heals, comforts, redeems, and establishes supernatural peace. (Pray in your own words.)

Requests:

Today's focus: Worship

- *Please pray for the pastors.
- *The choir and the contemporary worship team, especially for David Spicer and family.
- *For FCC to become a house of prayer; that God will establish a culture of prayer here.
- *For all church leaders, especially staff, deacons, and Church Board leaders.
- *For our visitors.
- *That times of prayer at home and at church will be saturated with God's power.
- *Unity.
- *For the prayer services on Wednesdays, and all who gather to pray during the week.
- *For those who feel lonely and abandoned as the year starts.
- *That the Lord would shelter His church against the work of the evil one. That there would be no confusion, miscommunication, disease, oppression, unbelief, and unforgiveness that would oppress us.
- *That our worship may please God and be like a hurricane that defeats evil.
- *Guidance in every aspect of our worship services on Sundays: the starting time of each service; the topic of sermons in the coming year; song/hymn selection; anointing on each sermon and prayer time.

Readiness:

May I stand on Your Word and be used by You to extend peace to those around me. May my words heal and not harm. May I choose to follow Your counsel and walk in obedience to Your will.

Thank you, dear one, for giving your time and prayers to the Lord.

Monday, January 16

Lord, help me be strong in Your might as I pray. Guide my words and thoughts. Wash away any distraction that might get in Your way. Release me from all doubt and increase my faith, that I might please you. In Jesus' Name I ask.

Today's prayer passage is Colossians 3:12-17:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for choosing you as His beloved, forgiving you, and extending His peace to you.

Response: Jesus, help me honor You by my prayers. As I pray, help me to focus on how You have loved me, that I may love others the same. Help me to be forgiving, kind, patient, humble, and thankful, as You were.

Requests:

Today's focus: Relationships

- *Please pray for our marriages – for healing of broken relationships, for kindness, respect, compassion, humility, and harmony to shape our words and deeds.
- *The relationship between parents and children, including adult children.
- *Our relationships at work with our superiors.
- *Our relationships at work with our coworkers.
- *For our singles, that they feel included, loved, and connected to meaningful community.
- *For our visitors to feel like they are welcome and belong.
- *For relationships in our church family – that we be united in love, respect and faith.
- *That we relate to those who are different from us with the love and grace of Jesus.
- *Our children and youth, their relationships with their friends and with their teachers at school.
- *That we repent of all kinds of prejudice.

Readiness:

May I stand on Your Word and be used by You to extend peace to those around me. May my words heal and not harm. May I choose to follow Your counsel and walk in obedience to Your will, Jesus.

May our Lord bless you, dear one, for giving your time and prayers to His people.

Tuesday, January 17

Lord, I need Your discernment, Your compassion and Your love as I pray. Show me how to please You with my words, my thoughts, and my attitudes, drawing others into Your Kingdom of love and life. In Jesus' Name I ask.

Today's prayer passage is Romans 1:16-17:

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith.

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for revealing to you His Gospel and giving you the gift of salvation. Thank Him for imparting to you His faith and imbuing you with His righteousness.

Response: Jesus, forgive me for all the ways I have been ashamed of Your Gospel. Show me how to grow bold in living and proclaiming Your truth to others.

Requests:

Today's focus: Evangelism

- *Please pray for the specific people in your life who do not know Jesus. Include family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.
- *Pray for God to make our church and each member bold in reaching out to a lost world.
- *For God to increase our desire as individuals to share the Gospel with the world.
- *For new creative strategies to draw our friends to Christ.
- *For God to anoint the pastors with a gift of evangelism and proclaiming salvation.
- *For the Holy Spirit to move more people to attend FCC. That upon arrival, they will feel a supernatural love from God, and Jesus will become real to them.
- *That our children and youth grow in their fervor for Christ and draw their friends to God.
- *For a large number of our friends and family to follow Jesus this year.
- *A spirit of repentance that leads to Jesus.
- *Protection from discouragement, fear, condemnation, and confusion as we proclaim the Gospel. Protection from all the attacks of the evil one.

Readiness:

Help me be a proclaimer of Your Gospel, Jesus. Help me draw many to Your saving faith. Thank You for the privilege of praying for the lost. Seal the work that You have done through this time of prayer in me this day, and help me to bring forth a good harvest for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' almighty Name I pray.

May our Lord bless you, dear one, for giving your time and prayers to His people.

Wednesday, January 18

Lord Jesus, the church is Your bride, and precious to You. Help me honor You by my prayers for her. Please keep intrusive thoughts away from my mind, and enable me to focus on Your loving Presence. Teach me to intercede with joy in Your Name.

Today's prayer passage is Colossians 1:9-13:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son.

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for making you a part of His beloved Son's Kingdom. Thank Him for qualifying you to share in the inheritance of the saints. Meditate on the Kingdom of God and what your inheritance might include.

Response: Jesus, fill me with all spiritual wisdom and understanding that I may live in a manner worthy of the name of Jesus. Help me to make decisions that are pleasing to You. May I help Your church increase in the knowledge of God and good works. Help our community reflect Your light.

Requests:

Today's focus: Church Community

- *For our church to be a place of belonging, where people at every stage of faith grow in wisdom and understanding.
- *For our church to become a place where we consistently draw closer to God and to one another in love, increasing in the knowledge of God.
- *For our church to be a safe place, where we can be honest about our struggles, and accepted and loved for who we are.
- *For our Life Groups.
- *For Family Ministry.
- *For new opportunities to help one another live in a manner worthy of God.
- *For us to be strengthened with spiritual power, growing in perseverance and patience.
- *For us to be a community that will faithfully pray for one another.
- *To be a community where all feel welcome, and those struggling with life's hurts don't feel judged.
- *Protection from critical words and judgmental attitudes.

Readiness:

Father, may I bring You much fruit in every good work. Please protect me from choosing to wear a mask in order to look good. Help me to be honest with my family of faith in order that I may grow In You and live in a manner worthy of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday, January 19

Father, inspire me to pray in earnest, so that with child-like faith I may stand on Your promises. Give me the gift of perseverance in my intercession. Help me, Holy Spirit, to grow in maturity as I pray. In Jesus' Name I ask.

Today's prayer passage is 1 Chronicles 28:20:

"Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished."

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for this reality: He is with you. He is on your side. He will never leave you. He will never walk away from you or leave you to your own devices. He will never forsake you. For the sake of Jesus, He will always remain Your Father.

Response: Jesus, help me remain strong and courageous. Help me not be afraid or dismayed by difficulties. Help me to trust You with everything that I have and love.

Requests:**Today's focus: Work & Calling**

- *Please pray for those who do not have jobs.
- *For those who have difficult jobs or are dissatisfied with their work.
- *For those who are struggling with fear and anxiety about their work.
- *For God to reveal His calling to each one. That He will remove confusion from the minds of those who are searching.
- *Provision for those who are struggling financially.
- *For God's favor with all those we work with.
- *For God's help to cover our gaps when we feel overwhelmed with our work.
- *Skill and understanding every day to do the work of our hands well.
- *For open doors and fresh opportunities for those in our midst who need new work.
- *That those who are called into long-term or short-term mission will say yes.
- *For us to labor well for the house of the Lord and be fruitful in our efforts.
- *For the leaders of First Church to be strong and courageous as they minister in every aspect of this church.
- *For the work of God's house to be successfully completed according to His plan for this year.

Readiness:

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to You, Jesus. In that authority and power, please help me to do the work You have set aside for me and to do it with a willing heart. Protect me from fear as I labor in the world and for Your Kingdom. Make this a year of many blessings at our church and in my life.

Friday, January 20

Dear Father, May Your Kingdom come as I pray. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Holy Spirit, please inspire me to pray with the power and love of Jesus Christ.

Today's prayer passage is Isaiah 61:1:

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for this reality: God sent Jesus to bring good news to you in your poverty of soul and flesh. He came to bind up your broken heart and to proclaim liberty to any chains that bind up your soul.

Response: Jesus, help me continue Your mission. Help me be the one who brings good news to the poor, and to help bind up the brokenhearted in this world. Help me bring relief to those who are suffering.

Requests:**Today's focus: Outreach & Mission**

- *For our Mission and Outreach Ministry, for wisdom, provision, generosity, and supernatural influence.
- *For each member and friend of FCC to grow in their love for the poor.
- *For me, personally, to have a greater heart for those in desperate need. Make me willing to give and to go where You send me.
- *For greater financial provision at FCC so that we can help others more.
- * For our ongoing partnerships and ministries (Hartford City Mission, Love 146, mission trips to Haiti and DR and Peru, South Park Inn, Adlebrook, Wethersfield food bank, Feed My Starving Children, Prison Alpha) to grow more fruitful.
- *For the children in Peru's Temple Zion after-school program.
- *That FCC become known for its work among the poor.
- *For the children in the Hartford school system who live in danger and poverty.
- *For our missionaries (for more information, please stop by at the Love in Action Table at church).
- *More volunteers.

Readiness:

Lord, here I am. Send me! Remove my fears, excuses, and worries, and help me make a difference.

Saturday, January 21

Lord, my future is in Your hands. Help me to trust Your plans as I pray for our church and our world. In Jesus' Name I ask.

Today's prayer passage is Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.

The following is a suggested chronology. Please feel free to use your own words.

Reverence: Spend time praising God for this promise: He has plans for your life. Plans to prosper your heart and soul. Plans that will bring you hope and a good future. He does not plan to harm you in any way. When you call on the Name of Jesus with all your heart, you will find that He is with You. He listens as you pray.

Response: Jesus, thank You that my future is secure in You. Thank You that I can trust Your plans rather than my own. Thank You that any future You have in store for me is better than one that I would fashion for myself.

Requests:**Today's focus: The Future**

*Please pray that God will guide us as a church as we seek to plan for this coming year. Pray that every sermon, every event, every ministry and mission will be in alignment with His will, and therefore fruitful.

*Pray for Your own year, that God will determine every aspect of it. Surrender Your dreams and plans to Him.

*Pray healing for those who are suffering from sickness or chronic pain. That we will see many miracles of healing in our midst this year.

*Pray for protection against spiritual warfare as a church and as individuals.

*Pray that Jesus will teach us where our vulnerabilities are, which may cause us to fall when warfare comes. Pray for God to restore those places of vulnerability

*Pray blessing on the Marsh Building, that it will finish in God's time, and that the provision for every inch and every piece of furniture will be more than sufficient.

*That God will use the building for His mighty glory. People will be loved there, welcomed there, fed there, taught there, saved there, helped there, healed there.

*Pray for God's provision and church finances for the coming year.

*For us to learn to tithe without fear.

*For many to come to Christ this year.

*That God may enlarge our community both in the Spirit and in attendance.

*That we will learn to hear God's voice more clearly.

Readiness:

Jesus, help us to walk in Your will without fear, to resist laziness and apathy, and to honor You with all we do. May we not waste this year as a church or as a people. Thank You for the privilege of this season of prayer. May You be pleased.