

PRAYER GUIDE 2021



Friday, January 8th @ Noon – Saturday, January 9th @ Noon

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Crosstown is blessed by your willingness to take part in this special time of seeking God's presence! This sheet is offered as an encouragement and guide. It is meant to act as a "launching board" as you engage in prayer conversation with our Living God. There is no reason to be limited by this sheet. Pray as you are led and guided by the Holy Spirit! Participate in the four prayer stations in the sanctuary as an effort to help prompt your prayer time as you pray through the Crosstown 2021 verse of the year. Take time just to be in God's presence. May God bless you for your faithfulness in seeking our Lord in prayer!!! Thank you for your commitment and sharing in this journey of prayer for 2021.

- Pastor John & Crosstown Elder Board

CROSSTOWN'S 2021 VERSE OF THE YEAR

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Directions: Four prayer stations are setup with activities and are meant to support you through your prayer time. Please feel free to pray through the additional requests listed or read through Psalms. This is your time to be with God in prayer, meditation, and worship. If you are joining us from home, we encourage you to gather a couple items (your phone/tablet, your Bible, a glass of water, a rock, post-it note or paper, and a candle).

Guide for the Prayer Stations

STATION 1 spiritual practice video from Amy Ponce



Prayer Vigil
Spiritual Practice Video

Follow this QR code or use the link in your app to utilize this spiritual practice video. Relax. Breathe. God is not only with you but He wants to be with you. Think about letting go of the things that are distracting you from God. Imagine your hands releasing these things and letting them drop. You can imagine dropping them into the hands of Christ, at the foot of the cross, or at the feet of Jesus, seated on the throne. Offer God a prayer, telling him you're open to receive whatever he has to give you today.

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STATION 2 Stones dropping into a pool prayer / Letting go

In front of you is a pile of stones and a water pail surrounded by landscape blocks. Take a stone from the pile. Imagine that all your concerns and worries are held in the stone. Hold the stone tightly and name the concerns and worries in your mind. Hold the stone over the pool of water. In your own time let it go.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, Hebrews 12:1

Pray: Oh Lord Jesus, we praise You for the example we have in Jesus Christ, Your Son. Thank You that we are surrounded by this body of believers and this great cloud of witnesses! Help us, Father, to lay aside everything that weighs us down, and the sin that so easily entangles us. Help us to run with perseverance the race that You've marked out for us. Strengthen us to fix our eyes on You and You alone, the author and perfecter of our faith. Thank You for hearing our prayers. Father, thank You for the promises You've spoken over my life. Help me to rise, be strong and press forward. Today I choose to let go of anything that would hold me back from boldly embracing everything You have in store for me. Father, today and every day I set my focus on you. I declare that I will not look to the left or to the right, but I will fix my eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith. Give me wisdom and grace as I dedicate every area of my life to You in Jesus' name!

Ask God in Prayer:

What is God speaking to Crosstown through this verse?

Praise God that He has a plan for each of us who are in Christ!

Pray that we would find our hope and comfort in God.

Pray that God will help remove things that hinder your relationship with Him.

Pray Philippians 4:4-9

STATION 3 Write your request/desire on a post-it note paper

As you write, pray for God to make you more aware of fixing your eyes on Jesus. You can write more than one paper. When you have written on your paper place these around the station / white board. *If you are participating at home and would like your prayer to be added to the cross at church please email it to Pastor John, pastorjohn@crosstowncovenant.org

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

Pray: Jesus, we fix our eyes on You. You showed us the beginning and end of faith, revealing the perfection and completion of a faith-full life. Begin and complete such faith in us. Jesus, we fix our eyes on You and build our lives upon You. May our faith grow stronger daily until we see Your face in that final day. Dear Lord, I know you have a plan for my life, and I thank you for that plan. Thank you for the examples in your word of those who have persevered through faith. As I run my race help me set aside any excess weight that is holding me down. Help me say no to responsibilities that I'm not currently meant to carry. If there is sin in my life, give me eyes to see it

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and turn from it. Help me always keep my eyes fully focused on you so that I may have endurance to follow your path for my life. Help me Look to you O Lord and your strength; help me seek your face always.

Ask God in Prayer:

To give you an increasing desire to spend time in His word
To help you realize you rely on Him to increase your faith
What is God speaking to you through this verse?
Pray Psalm 123
Read text from hymn "Turn your eyes upon Jesus"

STATION 4 Battery led Candles in front of the Cross

Light a candle and place it in front of the cross. Use it as a symbolic prayer.

*For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3*

Pray: Jesus, there are times that I feel alone in my life journey, but I know that is not the case. I thank you for my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for always being there and for loving me. Be with me today. I choose to trust in you, to break free of the things that hold me back, and to pursue to you. Your love, your hope, your peace and the promise of eternity. Lord come and inspire me and meet with me as I pray. O Lord I come to worship and bow down in my prayer, And kneel before you Lord, my creator, savior and heavenly Father! Hear my prayer, lead and guide me, teach me your love, and show me your ways.

Ask God in Prayer:

Thank Him for specific areas in life where you sensed His protection and love.
Pray for His protections for members of Crosstown and your family.
Pray Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."
Pray Psalm 11
Pray Psalm 63

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Giving Additional Prayer Requests for 2021

Pray for our church, that Community might remain vital to our body as we are currently distanced.
Pray for the day when our worship and fellowship together will resume post COVID-19.
Pray for God's guidance for 2021 and for the Leadership retreat on Jan 16.
Pray that persons would come to know Jesus and grow forward as disciples.
Pray for marriages - that God would strengthen communication within marriages and people would be filled with extravagant grace towards their spouses.
Pray for peace in homes as parents continue to navigate distance learning.
Pray for children as they manage their school work and their friendships through screens.
Pray for our city, that Crosstown can be a light in this seemingly difficult time. That people would be drawn to Christ as we proclaim Him to be the comforter for the brokenness in the world.
Pray for our world, that we will see healing take place, disease cured, and unity during fear.
Pray that we will move forward in consistently inviting people to follow Jesus.
Pray that Crosstown will be a community of disciples who are growing deeper with Jesus.
Pray for our partnership with Lake Nokomis Community Schools.
Pray for ministries at Crosstown: Children's, Youth, Treehouse, Small groups, Bible studies.
Pray for volunteers to support our online ministry efforts.
Prayer for the leadership of the church, Elders and Deacons.
Pray for Crosstown staff.
Pray for our partnership with CarePartners in hosting eLearning pods.
Pray for those who are grieving.
Pray for a sense of God's love among our community of believers. Pray for one another.
Pray for families to continue to grow in their love for Jesus.
Pray for children as they worship from home - pray that God would soften and draw hearts to himself.
Pray for ministry volunteers who are navigating the complexities of virtual ministry.
Pray that God would soften our hearts to those who do not know Christ.
Pray that God would open opportunities for believers to do good deeds and share the Good News of Jesus.
Pray for the ability to release worries or cares that burden you.

Psalms Reading Suggestions

Psalm 25	"O LORD, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God!"
Psalm 46:1	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
Psalm 91:1-2	"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Highest will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"
Psalm 95	"Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him."
Psalm 100	"Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!" read through and celebrate the wonder and majesty of our Triune God!
Psalm 105: 1-8	"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."
Psalm 118:6-7	"The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper."