

# Following Jesus into 2021

## Three Weeks of Prayer for Grace Covenant Church

### *GCC Mission Statement*

We FOLLOW JESUS...

to passionately LOVE GOD

to intimately CONNECT as His family

to intentionally GROW into His likeness

to joyfully SERVE with His gifts

to boldly LIVE-OUT His GOOD NEWS in our community and world

If Jesus truly is the Head of what is *His* Church, then Kingdom-seeking and Spirit-led prayer is Grace Covenant's first priority. We, the Leadership of Grace Covenant, are asking everyone in the church family to set aside extra time this month to lift up our shared life and ministries for God's loving desires to be carried out. "If you remain in me and I in you," says Jesus, "you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Are you willing to commit yourself to this priority? It helps to have a specific (even written) plan so that focused time with God does not get lost in daily distractions and duties.

To help, here are **three weekly PRAYER GUIDES**, following the intercessions of Jesus in John 17 as well as Grace Covenant's refreshed *Mission Statement* as listed above.

Other opportunities for praying together in corporate prayer will be offered during January.

## Week One: January 10-16

### 1. MAKE TIME TO FOCUS

At least once this week but ideally each day, set aside time directly with God. If health permits, consider fasting one or more meals this week. Why? Fasting is not some kind of performance to get God's favor. It's one way to let it sink in how we need God even more than food or anything else. It's a temporary setting aside of a good gift to focus our hearts all the more on the Giver and the Best. For some of us, the best fast might be not from food, but from some other gift that might distract us from God: e.g. internet, social media, TV, music, etc. Ask God for direction on what kind of fast would be His best for you.

### 2. OFFER YOURSELF

Acknowledge God's promised presence, and ask him to guide your praying. Then offer thanks and praise for at least one specific way "the Lord is good, and his love endures forever" (Psalm 100:5).

### 3. PRAY WITH JESUS that God be glorified and loved

Read John 17:1-5, 24-26. Then echo it in prayer for yourself and Grace Covenant, as well as whatever ways the Holy Spirit prompts. Take unrushed time to listen for his still, small voice!

Also, let your praying be stirred by this part of Grace Covenant's

*Mission and Priorities:*

We *FOLLOW JESUS...*

to passionately *LOVE GOD.*

For this, you can prayerfully ponder Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Romans 12:1.

Please include the following in your intercessions:

- Our INTIMACY WITH GOD be deepened and expanded.
- WORSHIP GATHERINGS that exalt Christ and give his Spirit freedom to convict, build up and equip.  
We also pray for the ministries of Worship Teams, Media Team, preachers.
- PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE on God in all ministries; Prayer Team.
- God's calling of our NEXT SENIOR PASTOR, and wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team: Taylor Burdick, Debbie Gilmore, Jared Lahr, Jennifer Reed, Tom Mainard, and Mark Mehl.

## Week Two: January 17-23

### 1. MAKE TIME TO FOCUS

At least once this week but ideally each day, set aside time directly with God. If health permits, consider fasting one or more meals this week and/or “fast” from some other gift that might distract us from God: e.g. internet, social media, TV, music, etc. Again, ask God for direction on what kind of fast would be His best for you.

### 2. OFFER YOURSELF

Acknowledge God’s promised presence, and ask him to guide your praying. Then offer thanks and praise for at least one specific way “the Lord is good, and his love endures forever” (Psalm 100:5).

### 3. PRAY WITH JESUS for joy, mission, holiness

Read John 17:13-19. Then echo it in prayer for yourself and Grace Covenant, as well as whatever ways the Holy Spirit prompts. Take unrushed time to listen for his still, small voice!

Also, let your praying be stirred by this part of Grace Covenant’s *Mission and Priorities*:

*We FOLLOW JESUS...  
to intentionally GROW into His likeness;  
to boldly LIVE-OUT His GOOD NEWS in our community and world.*

For this, you can prayerfully ponder Isaiah 61:1-6, and Romans 12:2.

Please include the following in your intercessions:

- Personal and Group cultivation of GROWTH in Christ-likeness through spiritual disciplines.
- CHILDREN’S Ministries and AWANA.
- COMMUNITY/GLOBAL OUTREACH: witness with neighbors and co-workers; Grace’s Grocery; Forge (Nathan Burdick); Evangelical Covenant partnerships.
- God’s calling of our NEXT SENIOR PASTOR, and wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team: Taylor Burdick, Debbie Gilmore, Jared Lahr, Jennifer Reed, Tom Mainard, and Mark Mehl.

## Week Three: January 24-30

### 1. MAKE TIME TO FOCUS

At least once this week but ideally each day, set aside time directly with God. If health permits, consider fasting one or more meals this week and/or “fast” from some other gift that might distract us from God: e.g. internet, social media, TV, music, etc. Again, ask God for direction on what kind of fast would be His best for you.

### 2. OFFER YOURSELF

Acknowledge God’s promised presence, and ask him to guide your praying. Then offer thanks and praise for at least one specific way “the Lord is good, and his love endures forever” (Psalm 100:5).

### 3. PRAY WITH JESUS for loving unity and service

Read John 17:20-23. Then echo it in prayer for yourself and Grace Covenant, as well as whatever the Holy Spirit prompts. Take unrushed time to listen for his still, small voice!

Also let your praying be stirred by this part of Grace Covenant’s

*Mission and Priorities:*

*We FOLLOW JESUS ...  
to intimately CONNECT as His family;  
to joyfully SERVE with His gifts.*

For this, you can prayerfully ponder Romans 12:3-8.

Please include the following in your intercessions:

- Mutual CARE, release of spiritual GIFTS.
- MINISTRY TEAMS: Adult, Children’s, Youth, Fellowship/Caring, Worship, Missions/Outreach, Properties.
- LEADERSHIP TEAM: Steve Burdick, Jared Lahr (Chair), Colin Ellis, (Treasurer), Mary Mainard, Lynne Pott.
- CHURCH STAFF: Steve Thulson (Interim Pastor), Nathan Burdick (Assoc. Pastor), Kelly Gibson, Michelle Pettis (Children), Doris Kelley (Administrator), Chris Campbell, Liz Ingalsbe-West (Worship), Toby Heidt, Rob Labenberg (Intern/Custodial).
- God’s calling of our NEXT SENIOR PASTOR, and wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team: Taylor Burdick, Debbie Gilmore, Jared Lahr, Jennifer Reed, Tom Mainard, and Mark Mehl.