

24/7 Sunset Prayer Guide

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” II Chronicles 7:14.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name…”

Hallowed means holy. God says, “I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.” Leviticus 11:45

The names of God describe both the character of God and the ways God moves. These names are revealed in Genesis 1:1, 14:18-20, 21:33, 22:14, Exodus 3:14, 15:26, 17:15, Deuteronomy 7:9, 10:17, Judges 6:24, Psalm 23:1, 136:26, Isaiah 5:16, 7:14, Jeremiah 23:6, Ezekiel 48:35 and John 8:58.

Meditate on one name per week and pray for his characteristic to be present in your life.

Praise God for who he is and what he has done in bringing you out of your past Egypt and into the Promise land of your present faith!

Pray for God’s name to be lifted up in reverence, knowing someday “that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Philippians 2:10-11

Pray for those in your sphere who you desire wholeheartedly to believe. Pray for salvation to the nations. Listen to God’s nudges in who to pray for.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

We are to “seek first his kingdom” Matt 6:33, a kingdom of great value, a “treasure hidden in a field.”, Matt. 13:44, a kingdom arrived at through repentance, Matt. 3:2, submission to God rather than lesser gods, James 4:7, a new way of relating to others, Colossians 3:12-14, involving peace, forgiveness and unconditional love which “bears with the failings of the weak”, Rom. 15:1, an “upside down kingdom where the greatest is the servant of the least, Mark 10:43-45. And teaching us to be “merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them.” Jude :22-23. “Only let us live up to what we have already attained.” Phil 3:16. What part of the kingdom of God do you need to focus on this week?

Pray for the community of faith at Sunset, to bring about Jesus’ kingdom.

Pray for our nursery, children’s and youth ministries, for our young adult and adult small groups leaders and members, for our Treasures ministry, for our women’s ministry leaders and members, for our men’s groups, for our Congregational Prayer Team and for this 24/7 Prayer initiative, for our music ministry and administrative staff, for our Helping Hands Outreach, for Pastor Steve and Rick Noling as they lead our staff, our Elders, the Denominational Task Force and the Risk Management Team, for those in marital counseling and physical sicknesses. For all those who serve in unseen ways.

Pray for our church members to lead godly lives, to seek reconciliation and forgiveness, “to not grow weary in doing good”, Galatians 6:9, “to act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with (their) God.” Micah 6:8

Pray for the worldwide Bride of Christ, to be faithful to the call of unity, strong in persecution.

“Give us today our daily bread.” Asking for ourselves is petition. And as we consider our daily needs, we pray those same needs for others, and it becomes intercession. Jesus lives to intercede for his followers, Hebrews 7:25, and his Holy Spirit puts words to our groaning. Giving thanks in advance, we can see how our Heavenly Father answers, growing trust in our relationship, I Thess. 5:17-18. What are you needing today: a job, companionship, food, ways to serve others, wisdom, healing, health, boldness, direction, rest? Pray these same things for others.

Pray for the sick, James 5:14-16, for those with chronic illnesses, with cancer, with heart disease, with lung diseases, with kidney disease, with immune system disease, depression, and mental illness.

Pray for local community leaders to see the needs of their people and meet them: hospitals, food banks, first responders, firemen, police, community centers, faith centers, students and teachers.

Pray for state and national leaders to lead with justice and mercy, striving for unity and promoting a healthy economy, maintaining healthy foreign relations, for leaders to find Christ.

Pray for governments around the world, that leaders would govern wisely, that people would live in peace, that worldwide pandemics be contained and ongoing diseases be decreased. Pray for good harvests and that foreign aid would get to people in need. Pray for immigrants in refugee camps.

Pray for the unemployed, the poor, their caregivers. Open our own eyes to them, Psalm 112:5.

Pray for missionaries from Sunset (see sunsetpres.org Missions) and in general, that their basic needs for food and shelter would be met, that they would be healthy, that new languages would come quickly and that the Gospel would be received., Matthew 28:19-20, I Peter 3:15.

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.”

Our God is a god of good boundaries. He is righteous: right-related, in all things. Enmity between the Jews and the occupying Romans wasn't particular to that time. It was an example of the human condition, having begun in the Garden of Eden. So, who are your enemies: a contentious neighbor, a micro-managing boss, a rebellious child, rude strangers, one who has broken a confidentiality, those in a lawsuit, those of a different culture or race, an estranged family member? Wherever there is unrest in our heart, there is enmity. Jesus commands us to love our enemies, Matt 5:44, Luke 6:32. Where is there unrest in your heart? Proverbs 4:23, 24:17, 25:21, I John 3:21

Pray for family relations: husbands and wives, Eph. 5:21, siblings, parents and children, Eph. 6:1, For blended families and those who have lost family members, for widows and orphans, for the divorced, for unhappy singles, for children in foster families, for the homeless men, women, children and families. For children who have strayed from their faith, Proverbs 22:6

Pray for those who have been bullied, abused, mentally, physically, emotionally or spiritually: that forgiveness would come, and with it, healing. Isaiah 58:8, Phil. 3:13, Matt. 6:14-15.

Pray for reconciliation between people of different cultures and races, political views, sexual orientations, economic standing, generational divides, opinions, differences, religious beliefs, aggressors and victims, II Cor. 4:7-10.

Pray for the spread of Christianity in Islamic countries, where forgiveness is a radical idea. **Pray** that people groups tired of division and hatred would seek God's Kingdom of peace and forgiveness.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil…”

God's Word teaches us that evil is an entity, with a personal face. He is father of lies, John 8:44. We live in a time between the Victory over evil on the Cross and the not yet return of the King. We live in a world where the enemy still has influence, Eph. 2:1-2. There is a spiritual battle being waged all around us, and we have been given both the authority and the equipment to join God Almighty in this fight. We intercede for those influenced by the enemy, knowing that the real evil is not the person, but the one who influences and sometimes controls them. II Cor. 10:3-5. We put on the full Armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-18.

Praise Jesus that he has won the battle, Revelation 5: 12-13, that we are protected by his Holy Spirit, that we have a High Priest who “sympathizes with our weaknesses”, Hebrews 4:14-16, and that “we have not been given a spirit of fear, but of love, of power and a sound mind”, II Tim. 1:7. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21, I John 3:9

Pray for our children and the generations to come, that they rise up in faithfulness to God's claim on their lives. Ephesians 1: 17-20.

Pray for those caught in this battle now, to be turned back, and that we might be “merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them.” Jude :22-23.

Pray for those caught in sexual sin, pornography, for those caught in the sex-trade, both captors and victims, rape victims I Cor. 6:18-20

Pray for those who believe the lie that happiness lies in having material things, for those tempted to steal to find happiness, for the greedy, for those who hold captive others in their debt, for those addicted to gambling. Matt. 6:24

Pray for those who are compelled to lie: about themselves, others, situations, false teachers, cult leaders, John 8:32, I John 4: 1-3. For those in prison, John 10: 14-16.

Pray for those caught in addictions: alcoholism, eating disorders, self-hate, obsessive-compulsiveness, gambling, shopping, pornography and drugs. Romans 3:23, 5:8

Pray for those who kill others: for assailants, drunk drivers, those who commit suicide, terrorists, assassins, warring nations, political leaders who commit genocide, drug lords, runners and dealers, for those who live with having unintentionally killed and have loved ones who were. I John 3:1, 16.

“For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Amen.”

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoner and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:17-19