

PRAYER GUIDE



CROSS POINTE CHURCH

Let us then approach
the throne of grace
with confidence,
so that we may receive
mercy and find grace
to help us in our
time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

More than any other single thing, our church, and I as your Pastor, depend weekly, daily—hourly—on prayer to sustain us and to be the foundation of accomplishing God’s mission in our lives and in the world. Simply put, prayer is like air, water and food. We cannot live without it.

As you pray each day, I want to ask you to keep for things on your heart as you speak to and listen to God.

Pray for our world. Can a church in Atlanta, Georgia make an impact for Christ where there are nearly 7 billion people on the globe? Yes, we can. That’s our mission—the Great Commission—and God has given us everything we need to accomplish it. Pray as we seek to take the gospel everywhere to everyone at all times.

Pray for our community. Within 20 minutes of our church are more than a million people, 60% of whom do not identify themselves as Christ-followers. They need our compassion, our love, our care. Most of all they need the gospel. Pray for open doors to share Jesus in our community and city.

Pray for our church. Pray for our hard working and dedicated staff. Pray for our deacons, lay leaders, teachers and volunteers in every ministry area. Pray for our wise use of resources and boldness in our community. Pray that we will be a beacon for Christ as we love God, serve others and share our story individually and collectively each and every day.

Pray for me. Pray as I prepare to preach each week. Pray for me as I listen for God’s leading and that I would accurately and boldly communicate from God’s Word each week. Pray for my wife and family.

Know too that I am praying for you. I want to thank you for being a part of Cross Pointe’s Prayer Ministry. I thank God for your commitment to prayer, and for making prayer a priority in your life.

Exalting Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Merritt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

James Merritt, Senior Pastor

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

Some believers find prayer difficult. You might question why God would want to listen to you—after all, aren't we all insignificant compared to Him? Or you may have trouble approaching God out of guilt or shame for past or present sin. "Why would God listen when this thing happened or is happening in my life?" Or you may see it as a fruitless exercise. "Why pray? God never seems to answer me in any way I can discern."

The reason we pray is to build our relationship with God— to understand Him more fully as we talk to Him and He reveals Himself to us. The Bible instructs all believers to pray. When we pray, we are not seeking to change the will of God. We are seeking the will of God. His Word says, "*We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that he hears us if we ask him for anything that is according to his will*" 1 John 5: 14.

We also pray:

To build our faith. Prayer requires faith in God. Our prayer helps us understand God more; His wants, desires and mission for our lives and for His church. Prayer requires an attitude of humility and repentance. It also requires confidence. Hebrews 4;16 says, "*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*"

In obedience to God. The Bible is clear in its instruction to all believers to pray. When we pray, God often impresses on us ways that we can help answer prayers through serving others and sharing the Gospel. When this happens, it creates another opportunity for us to be obedient to God, and in so doing to know Him more.

To develop our patience. God is not on our schedule. Isaiah 55:8 says, "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.*" Often the most important element of prayer is to teach us not only to trust the Lord, but to also wait on Him to reveal the "bigger picture" to us as we participate in His work.

HOW TO PRAY

“Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

Prayer is simply talking to God, and listening for God. The Bible tells us over and over to constantly bring problems and needs to our Heavenly Father. Prayer is not to inform God of something which He is not already aware of or to try to convince Him to love us more. He already knows our needs and He has certainly shown his love. Prayer’s purpose is to assist us in building our relationship with God.

Prayer is also a skill and practice that must be learned and developed. The disciples asked Jesus, *“Lord, teach us to pray...” Luke 11:1*. “There are many models and outlines for prayer, beginning with Jesus’ model of the Lord’s Prayer. In general, when you pray, keep the following in mind:

Immediate. When there is a problem, need, or opportunity to praise or thank God, bring it to Him in prayer immediately. See prayer needs as an opportunity to talk to God.

Honest and clear. Tell God that you need His help and intervention. Be direct and transparent. You are not informing God of anything He does not already know about. Talking with God helps you strengthen your relationship with Him. You can pray out loud or silently in your mind. Vocalizing our prayers often helps us clarify our thoughts.

Focus on God. Always remember to keep your prayer God-centered and not problem-centered. As you pray, think about what God may be seeking to teach you or have you do in the situation you are praying about.

Be thankful. When we pray, we are being obedient to God’s command to pray. God promises that He hears us and that He will answer. This is cause for thanksgiving, regardless of the answer that God gives.

Keep a record. God’s memory is perfect; ours is not. A prayer journal will help you keep up with what you have been praying for and about. You’ll also begin to see patterns over time as God moves in and through your life and prayers.

WHEN AND WHERE TO PRAY

Our example of the church in prayer is found in the New Testament. From the book of Acts forward, we see how the early church functioned, and prayer was a central characteristic of the church. Acts 2:42 says the church was devoted to prayer. As they faced persecution and were scattered and often in hiding, many facing death, early believers prayed *desperately*—their lives often depended on it!

We too should see prayer not as a check-box instruction God has asked us to follow. Our days and hours, our very lives, should be dependent on this intimate and constant contact with God. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 puts its succinctly: “*Prayer continually.*” Our prayers should occur anytime and anywhere.

Pray alone. Set aside time each day specifically for prayer. Most believers do this in conjunction with their Bible study time. The Bible says, “*When you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen*” Matthew 6:6. Regular time alone with God in prayer is essential.

Pray continuously. Pray whenever a need comes to mind. Pray in the car—a great alternative to playing the radio, talking on your cell phone or, God forbid, trying to text someone! Pray at the grocery store, at your desk at work, at school, while tending your yard, doing housework,—anytime is an opportunity to pray. Whenever you hear a prayer need from someone, don’t promise, “I’ll be praying for you” for later. Stop, right then and there, and pray.

Pray together. Pray with you spouse, family and friends. Pray with your children. Pray with your parents and grandparents. Pray when you are gathered with other believers in your small group, having fellowship together or serving together. Prayer not only helps us build our connection to God, but also our connections with one another as we lift us each other and our needs and praises to God together.

Pray as a church. Listen to prayer in our worship times. In this context when you are led by another in prayer, don’t disengage as if you too are not praying. Repeat the words in your mind, making that prayer your own prayer.

WHAT TO PRAY

Matthew 6:7 says, “*When praying, do not say the same thing over and over again, just as the heathens do, for they think that they shall be heard for their use of many words.*” God doesn’t want to hear memorized prayers that someone else wrote. He wants to hear your prayers coming in your own words and straight from your heart. Talk with God as if He were your very best friend, because He is. Your prayers should be a conversation between you and God, as if your words are getting ready to burst out of you and you can hardly wait to talk with God. What should we talk about?

Thanks and praises. Psalm 95:2 says, “*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with praise.*” In remembering what God has done for us and is doing in us, our prayers should be well seasoned with thanksgiving and praise. The Psalms give us great examples of praise to God, for who He is, what He has created and how He loves us and cares for us and sustains us daily.

Confessions and struggles. God desires to hear our confessions. When we disobey God or struggle with sin, talking to God and asking for His help is the first step to overcoming it.

Hurts and problems. Praying for the needs of others is a central component of prayer. When we pray for others, we become partners with God in his work of salvation, healing, comfort, and justice. God can certainly accomplish those things without us, but he gives us the privilege of being involved with him through prayer. This is where a prayer journal really comes in handy to keep up with the prayer needs of those you know, as well as praying for the needs of your family, church, community, city, country and the world.

Thoughts and desires. Throughout the Bible we see people voicing their thoughts and desires to God—from issues in their lives, to decisions they are facing to relationship issues and opportunities to serve others. God also tells us that He desires to teach us through these prayerful conversations. Jeremiah 33:3 says, “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*”

Enter into His gates
with thanksgiving, and
into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him,
and bless His name.

Psalm 100:4

SCRIPTURES TO PRAY

Praying Scriptures is a great way to both learn God's Word and internalize the Bible as you apply God's teachings to specific situations and prayer needs. Here's an example. Philippians 4:6 says, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God..."* After reading this verse, you might apply it by praying something like, "God, this has been a difficult week emotionally. I'm bringing these prayer requests to you now so that you will help me to not be nervous or anxious. Even though I don't know the answers yet, I'm thankful that I can trust in You no matter what happens."

Here are some other Scripture verses that might be helpful to you during your prayer times:

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO NEEDS

"Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." Matthew 6:8

"...those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing." Psalm 34:10

"The earth is the Lord's, and all it's fullness..." Psalm 24:1

"...every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills." Psalm 50:10

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over..." Luke 6:38

"[God] is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..." Ephesians 3:20

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him...” 2 Peter 1:3

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything to hard for Me?” Jeremiah 32:27

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

“For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...” Philippians 4:6

“...may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness...” 2 Corinthians 9:10

“...may He grant you according to your hearts desire, and fulfill all of your purpose.” Psalm 20:4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,...” Ephesians 1:3

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO FAITH

“...stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes...” 1 Samuel 12:16

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27

“God is not a man, that He should lie. Has He said, and will He not do it?” Number 23:19

“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:4

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31

“...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 2:1

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words... in faith and love...” 2 Timothy 1:13

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2

“Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...” Colossians 3:23

“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Mark 9:23

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

“And has He not given you rest on every side?” 1 Chronicles 22:18

“You will not need to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you...” 2 Chronicles 20:17

“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“...consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

“Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

“[Nothing can] separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

“...be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:5

“Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.” Micah 7:8

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

“[You] have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

“[Be] confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...” Philippians 1:6

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4

SCRIPTURES REGARDING HEALING (PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL)

“[Jesus] bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.” Matthew 8:17

“He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” Psalm 107:20

“Do not be wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil.” Proverbs 3:7

“It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.” Proverbs 3:8

“I am the Lord who heals you.” Exodus 15:26

“Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...” Psalm 103:3

“Serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.” Exodus 23:25

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” Proverbs 16:24

“Your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.” Isaiah 58:8

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.” Psalm 118:17

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3

“A merry heart does good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.” Proverbs 17:22

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3 John 2

“These signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Mark 16:17

“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.” James 5:15

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” James 5:16

“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” Matthew 8:13

PRAYING FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Senior Leadership Team

James Merritt	Senior Pastor
Larry Herndon	Executive Pastor
Bruce Hardy	Administrative Pastor
Troy Bush	Pastor of Missions and Evangelism
Gene Mason	Communications Director

Ministry Staff Team

Scott Morgan	Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Alfred Burgess	Next Generation Minister
Carol Tant	Preschool Director
Monica Cullins	Interim Director of Children's Ministries
Josh Frazier	Student Ministry Associate
Jonathan Merritt	College and Single Adult Director
Shaun Wooten	IT Director
Kalli Overcash	Pastor's Administrative Assistant
Amanda Sutton	Director of Volunteer Ministries
Star McMullen	Financial Accountant
Janice Brannon	Financial Manager
Beth Barton	Facilities Coordinator
Sheila Walker	Resource Center

Support Staff Team

Beth Beverly	Children's Ministry Assistant
Faith Holt	Receptionist
Renee Maynard	Communications Director's Administrative Assistant
Norma Parker	Legacy and Facilities Administrative Assistant
Donna Pierce	Discipleship and Singles Administrative Assistant
Renee Song	Missions Ministry Assistant
Carly Tennent	Student Ministry Assistant
Ana Whitfield	Worship Arts Administrative Assistant
Amber Wooten	Systems Administrator
Myra Young	Preschool Ministry Assistant

PRAYING FOR OUR GOVERNMENT

United States Government*

U.S. President
U.S. Vice President
U.S. Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Speaker of the House
U.S. House Minority Leader
U.S. Senators for the State of Georgia

U.S. Representatives for the State of Georgia

Barack Obama
Joseph Biden
Mitch McConnell
Nancy Pelosi
John Boehner
Johnny Isakson
Saxby Chambliss
Jack Kingston
Sanford Bishop Jr.
Lynn Westmoreland
Henry Johnson Jr.
John Lewis
Tom Price
John Linder*
Jim Marshall
Tom Graves
Paul Broun
Phil Gingrey
John Barrow
David Scott

Georgia State Government*

Governor of Georgia
Georgia Lieutenant Governor
Georgia Attorney General
Georgia State School Superintendent

Sonny Purdue
Casey Cagle
Thurbert Baker
Kathy Cox

Local Officials and Contacts Important to You

Your Children's School Principle(s)

Your Children's Teacher(s)

Your Children's Sports Coach(es)

Listing current as of September 2010. John Linder is the U.S. Representative for the district which includes Duluth, Georgia.

CONNECTING THROUGH PRAYER

Cross Pointe has several means to help you pray and to connect you with others within our church who are also praying.

Prayer Gatherings. Several times each year we hold churchwide Prayer Gatherings. These are opportunities for our faith family to get together for no other purpose than prayer. The Gatherings last about an hour and child care is available by reservation.

Online Prayer Pages. Our church website has prayer resources available online. You can submit prayer requests to our staff. You'll also find helpful suggestions on prayer and links to books and other prayer resources. Visit us online today at crosspointechurch.com/prayer.

Facebook and Twitter Prayer

Groups. If you are a Facebook or Twitter user, you can receive daily prayer suggestions and resources through news feeds for these social media sites. These are great tools to stay connected to our church in prayer on a daily basis. Visit crosspointechurch.com/prayer for links to “Like” or “Follow” these social media groups.



Worship Guide Prayer Note. Each Sunday, look for a note in your Worship Guide to indicate a prayer need or request for the church. Use this as a reminder to pray daily for the listed ministry, event, individual or need. You can also write your prayer requests on your Worship Guide tear-off and place it in the offering basket—our staff prays specifically for each and every one of these requests that we receive weekly.

Emergency Needs. Always make our staff leaders aware of crisis or emergency prayer needs and hospitalizations by calling the Church Office at 678.812.4500. After office hours, a manned answering service receives your call, and then immediately contacts our minister-on-call, day or night, to respond to these needs.

Devote yourselves
to prayer, being
watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

CROSS POINTE CHURCH

1800 Satellite Boulevard | Duluth, GA 3007 | 678.812.4500 | crosspointechurch.com

LOVE GOD | SERVE OTHERS | SHARE YOUR STORY