



CANDIDATES SUNDAY PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

- **Call to worship**

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our hearts to receive your love.

All: Come now, Lord, and pour your love into our lives once again.

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our eyes to see your glory.

All: Come now, Lord, for we are waiting to see your face.

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our minds to understand your grace.

All: Come now, Lord, for we want to experience all the blessings you want to give us.

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us.

All: Come now, Lord. We are waiting and watching and listening. We are ready to encounter your glory and seek your will for our lives.

Leader: Come, Lord, and keep us alert to your calling.

All: Come now, Lord. We are ready to honour you with our very being. Amen.

- **Praise (from NLT)**

All: Let all that I am praise the Lord. O Lord my God, how great you are! You are robed with honour and majesty. You are dressed in a robe of light. You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens.
(Psalm 104:1-2)

Women: Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. (Psalm 105:1)

Men: He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land. He always stands by his covenant, a commitment he made to a thousand generations. (Psalm 105:7-8)



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All: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. (Psalm 106:1)

Women: For the Lord is high above the nations; his glory is higher than the heavens. Who can be compared with the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high? (Psalm 113:4-5)

All: O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. (Psalm 139:1)

Men: I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. (Psalm 139:7-8)

Women: Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand...

All: Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. (Colossians 3:1-2)

- **Gratitude for leadership**

Reader 1: Father God, thank you for our corps leader(s), our officers and territorial envoys. Thank you for calling them and thank you that they responded to your call.

Reader 2: Thank you for their willingness to serve you with their lives and to go where you need them to be. Thank you for the way they lead us and teach us truths, and show by their example what holiness is.

Reader 1: Thank you for the salvation they have received and that they want everyone to receive it too and be free from the power of sin.

Reader 2: Thank you, Father, for those who have been influenced by their lives and are now responding to your call for them.

Reader 1: Thank you for their adventurous spirit and the vision they have for the mission of seeing lives changed. Thank you for keeping them alert to your promptings and obedient to your voice.

Reader 2: Father, thank you that you continue to call your people to be leaders in your Church, to be pastors and preachers, to be servants to the poor and



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mentors to the searching, to be carers of the sick and compassionate to the unloved.

Reader 1: Thank you that you can use every one of us to reach out to another person in love and forgiveness.

All: Thank you for examples of faithfulness and for people of prayer. Help me to fit in, too, and be alert to what you want me to offer of myself in your Church. I offer this prayer from a thankful heart. Amen.

- **Living in him**

Reader 1: Loving Father God, we want to get our Christian living and our discipleship in perspective. We recognise your desire for us to strive for a likeness of Jesus your Son and we have heard the call to holy living. What a privilege it is to walk in holiness, pure in thought and deed!

Reader 2: Yet we would confess our failings and seek your forgiveness, for we have often neglected to emulate Jesus. Thank you for loving us despite our failings and seeing us as worthy to be your children.

Reader 3: We are sorry for not being alert to your Spirit when you have sought to show us your glory. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our light in the darkness, who leads us to where the spiritual action is taking place and even uses us to shine light for others to see the way forward.

Reader 4: How wonderful it is, Father, that you have freely given us new life with Christ! Your salvation and love have overwhelmed us and humbled us. As we now live as children of your Kingdom, we want to share in this adventure of mission and evangelism, of service and obedience, of sharing and compassion.

Reader 5: Keep us faithful, keep us joyful, keep us alert to your Spirit's voice and obedient to respond. Involve us in the action; encourage us to be bolder and fearless, so that we may share in the glories of life in Christ. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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- **Benediction**

Leader: Look at your hands.

All: God made them for a purpose.

Leader: See the touch and usefulness.

All: We shall use them to do God's work.

Leader: Look at your feet.

All: God made them for a purpose.

Leader: See the direction and example.

All: We shall use them to do God's work.

Leader: Look into your heart.

All: God made it for a purpose.

Leader: See the love and determination.

All: We shall use it to do God's work.

Leader: Look at the cross.

All: God made it for a purpose.

Leader: See God's Son, the Saviour.

All: We shall follow him in God's work.

Leader: Look at your world.

All: God made it for a purpose,

Leader: See where God calls you to serve him.

All: We shall go out and do God's work.

Leader: May the God who loves you endlessly lead you from belief into action.

All: Amen.



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PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for all officers and territorial envoys serving this territory today. Pray for encouragement, good health, times of personal spiritual renewal and courage to be bold in mission.
- Ask God to place on your heart people you know who may need to respond to the call to officership and territorial envoyship. Pray for them to be alert to God's voice and obedient to respond.
- Remember any leaders you know who have not been able to sustain officership, maybe due to ill health, family responsibilities or relationship problems. Pray for healing of heart and mind and for grace and freedom from guilt and disappointment.
- Pray for those who find themselves applying for reacceptance into officership or territorial envoyship. Ask for courage and patience for them and that God's will may be done in their lives.
- Remember all applicants for officership and territorial envoyship, with their hopes and dreams. Each year there are Assessment Conferences where those who have applied for officership / territorial envoyship spend time sharing their calling. Pray God's guidance and blessing on the applicants and the assessment team.
- Pray that people may pay attention to what God is calling them to do and to be, beyond the everyday business of life. Pray for hearts that are committed to God's ways and purposes, not the ways of the world.
- Pray for yourself and the part you play in the building of the Kingdom of God, whatever age you are.



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PRAYER ACTIVITIES

- **What is God saying?**

Provide a number of newspapers and images of objects and locations and even physical objects for people to touch. Ask a small group of people to look at this selection and identify things that God may be saying through these in relation to the world around us, that he is calling us to be alert to. Themes might emerge such as love, peace, family, forgiveness or specific prayer requests. Once the topics have emerged, pray as a congregation for the things that have been revealed.

You can also project news articles and images on a screen and involve the whole congregation in exploring what God is saying.

- **Lectio Divina**

Lectio Divina, or 'divine reading', is the practice of reading Scripture, meditating on it, praying and contemplating. Invite people to open the passage of Colossians 3:1-2. You may want to play some reflective music in the background.

Ask them to read through the verses carefully and slowly a number of times; then to meditate on the words and concentrate on certain words or phrases that 'speak' to them, looking out for the message coming through to them personally. As they pray this Scripture they can be alert to what God is revealing.

Take time to share this revelation with someone else in the congregation. They may want to pray for each other based on what has been revealed.

- **Pray what you see**

Take a photograph of a well-known part of your town (the high street, or a popular park, or even the front of your building) and project it on to the screen. Have people shout out 'thank you' prayers for what they see, and ask for blessings and opportunities for God to work. Take plenty of time for this, as more and more ideas will come the longer you pray.

- **I spy**

To make this more interactive you could have binoculars or a spy telescope - a paper tube covered in gift wrap to look through.



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Choose some people to **spy objects**, such as 'I spy something blue... Is it the chairs? Thank you, God, for the chairs we have to sit on to be comfortable in worship'.

Move on to 'I spy' people: 'I spy someone who plays the piano...' 'I spy someone who prays for everyone...' and thank God for them.

Next, an **'I spy' of something you don't see now** but will see during the week: 'I spy a school classroom - please, God, be there to bless and protect children and teachers.' 'I spy a bus stop - thank you, God, for transport - help me to be friendly, and give peace to those going to appointments.' 'I spy a grocery store - thank you, God, for the food we have. Help us remember to share with those in need.' etc

Finally, **'I spy' the future:** 'I spy people who are going to work for God'; 'I spy children who will grow up to take roles in the Church'; 'I spy people walking through our doors needing help'.

How can we 'spy' God in the things around us? In the people around us? In our own futures?

- **Flower prayers**

Provide enough cut-out copies of the flower template (Appendix 1) and place trays with water on the mercy seat or on tables at the front.

Give people pens to write a prayer, either in the centre of the flower or on every petal. Encourage them to think of those who have made a difference to their lives in the past because they were alert to God's calling. They may want to write their own name on the daisy to offer themselves up to God to be used in whatever way he wants to use them.

Once this is done, people can fold the petals inwards and place them on the tray. As the daisy absorbs the water, the petals will open up. As this happens, say a general prayer thanking God for the influence of people on our lives and for their obedience in being alert when they felt him call them. Pray that we too may be in tune to God's voice speaking to us.

Play the song ['Who am I?'](#) by Casting Crowns throughout.



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APPENDIX A

