

An Eight-Day Cycle of Prayer

Based on the Eight Habits of Evangelism

God of mercy, God of justice, God of love. Thank you, for continuing to engage us in the gospel message of the good news in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. By your Spirit, move us from an attitude of “what the church can do for me” to a posture of

SATURDAY: Radical Welcome

- To embrace and be changed by the gifts, presence, voices and power of people systemically cast out and/or marginalized.

SUNDAY: Worship

To see this time as a mandate to

- reflect on our theological understandings of worship,
- release practices and thinking that hold us back,
- and reimagine how worship can be expressed in both in-person and digital spaces.

MONDAY: Sacraments

- To be present in the mystery of the moment when the ordinary becomes extraordinary.
- To be present when we have a chance to depart from the extraordinary experience of worship and enter our ordinary days with hope, wonder, strength, power and peace.

TUESDAY: Prayer

- To engage God for the fuel that empowers a lifestyle that proclaims good news and attracts attention.
- To be persistent and confident, believing that God hears and answers prayer.

WEDNESDAY: Justice

- To become increasingly more radically inclusive, intentionally reaching out to the farthest margin.
- To give a clear message of welcome to everyone, recognizing, valuing, loving and celebrating all people,
- especially those on the margin.

THURSDAY: Teaching

- To hear and believe the good news that Jesus is the loving, just, and rightful ruler who is restoring creation and making the world right again.
- To build our lives on this good news, proclaiming it to others and instructing others in this way of life.

FRIDAY: Fellowship

- To embrace the awareness that faith, hope, love and witness are cultivated in the context of community that recognizes and accepts each person as they are, welcoming them and offering an open heart with an authentic desire for building relationship.

SATURDAY: Generosity

To become contagious givers who

- give good things to others freely and abundantly.
- know that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.
- know that all human generosity and all the virtues that trail in its wake are ultimately gifts from God.

Liturgical Resources for Evangelism Sunday

Living God, in the great mystery of our faith, receive us each night and revive us each day, that we may be dead to sin and alive to you through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Gathering

Prayer of the Day (Prayed silently as worshipers gather)

1. Wonderous God, speak to our hearts as we stand before you. Send us where you will. Send us into places where your truth and your justice have forever been ignored. Strengthen us and bring your words of power and peace to my remembrance. Remind us that you are with us. Diminish our fear of the faces of those who despise your truth. Make us vessels overflowing with your love. Even when our voices tremble, amplify our voices so that all may know we are sent by you. (Ezekiel 2:1-7)
2. We praise you, O God. We proclaim your name aloud. Make us proclaimers by our deeds, not just in words. Remind us how you have been present with us daily and down through the years. Remind us again and again how you were there with our ancestors every step of the way. Open our mouths that we may share your wonderous love and your requirement of liberty and justice for all people for we are all the work of your mighty and wonderous hands. (Psalm 105:1)
3. Lord of the Harvest, show us the field and we will gather for you. Open our doors that we may go out. Open our arms that we may embrace. Open our hearts that we may be radically welcoming. Change us so that we are not pickers and choosers. Remind us that we were once chosen. Increase our proclivity to be present with all that all may see you in us. Make us builders of your beloved community. (Matthew 9:37-38)

Prelude

Call to Worship

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: For by grace we have been saved through faith.

People: And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God

Leader: Neither is it a result of works, so that none among us may boast.

All: Thanks be unto God.

Hymn of Praise

Spirit, Open My Heart

GTG 692

Here I Am, Lord

GTG 69; PH 525

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

GTG 298; PH 429

The Church of Christ in Every Age

GTG 320; PH 421

Confession and Pardon

O God, we come before you, as humbly as we know how, with this request of forgiveness. Throughout the biblical text, we see your requirements of us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you. And we have ignored them. We have heard your requirements to lift Jesus, in our actions, not just in our words, that others may be drawn to you. And we have overlooked them. We have made worship to satisfy our flesh rather than listen to spirit for inspiration. When we should have prayed in faith, we prayed of rote. We have limited access to your table of grace. We have forsaken fellowship. Forgive us for failing to prioritize your commandments and failing to treat the needs of your people as holy. For these sins, for others named and unnamed, forgive us.

(Offer a moment of silence for personal confession and reflection).

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (James 4:8-10) Know that in Jesus Christ our sins have been forgiven. Thanks be to God.

People: Because of Gods mercy, we are saved. Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:4-7) Amen!

Hymn Response

We All Are One in Mission

GTG 733

(You may select a particular verse or choose to sing the whole hymn.)

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: In the grace of God, let us offer peace to one another. And as you pass that peace, we invite you to share one way in which you will demonstrate the love of Christ to a neighbor this week.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lord of Light, the One to whom we belong, open our ears, our minds and our hearts, so that we may understand how to win others to you. Teach us to become like you. Show us where your people are in need. Teach us humility. Open our eyes that we may see the needs of our brothers and sisters and, for the sake of the gospel, do all things that you require and share in its blessings. Amen.

First Reading 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Second Reading Acts 5:12-16

Sermon

Hymn (Select one)

Spirit, Open My Heart GTG 692

Listen, God Is Calling GTG 456

Affirmation of Faith (from “The Confession of Belhar”)

We believe

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Prayers of the People

(This time should be an opportunity for people to share their stories, to tell where their lives hunger and thirst for peace, justice, and compassion. If meeting virtually, use the chat feature. If in person, suggest writing prayer concerns or joys to be placed in a basket for the pastor or person designated for prayer. Pastors and worship leaders may even prompt people to name prayers aloud. It’s important that, if people name themselves or others, that these names be written and spoken aloud during the prayer. It is important that worshippers understand that they are important and that their concerns are important to God and that God knows them and their loved ones by name.)

The Eucharist

Offering

(Offering our gifts, our tithes, and our service to God is a sacred time; a chance to give a portion back to our Lord for all Christ has done. The offering is a chance to witness, give testimony, rejoice, and offer our gratitude in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Invite the congregation to offer incarnational ways they might love and serve the Lord, and invite them into a time of prayerfully offering monetary gifts, or papers that give thanks for all God has done and the ways they are called to give back in service to the Lord; whether physically putting them in an offering plate, making donation via online giving tools or prayerfully naming those before the Lord.)

Leader: God who creates and gives, we praise you! You have blessed us with resources and opportunities. We share these gifts that they may be used wherever there is need among our siblings in this church, in this community and throughout the world. Multiply them so that they may be used for the bringing about of Your reign in Your time. Amen

Doxology

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: We come to the Lord's Table to reaffirm our commitment to Christ. Here, God renews us with grace. We do not come to the Lord's Table because we must, but because we may. No one is more worthy than another and no one may be denied. Here we experience the wonder of God's love and mercy. Come just as you are. It does not matter where you have been or where you are going, it does not matter what you have done or what you have left undone, it does not matter what others see, only what God sees. And God sees that you are beautiful, complete, fearfully and wonderfully made. So come.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

(from "The 8 Habits of Evangelism")

Leader: God of grace and grand invitation, we give you thanks for you have set a table before us filled with love, joy and peace.

**People: You invite us to be nourished by your presence, purpose and power.
Give us the strength to taste and see that you are good.**

Leader: Help us to know that you have declared that we are good and good enough.

People: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism wherein you have named us and claimed us as your own.

Leader: Through your sacred waters, we have been sealed and set apart to reflect your goodness and your mercy.

**People: We are yours, children of the covenant, people of faith.
This day and always, let the waters of peace wash over us again.
Let the waters of renewal revive us again.**

Leader: Let the waters of justice and courageous compassion fill our cups till they overflow to the lives of all we meet.

People: For the daily bread and cup that touch our lips and fill our bellies, nourish and nurture us throughout the day.

Leader: For the moments when we see water and feel water, may we remember our baptism and know that we are beautiful, whole, complete and wholly thine.

All: For those who cannot find daily bread and cup, for those who cannot feel and find water that renews, may we work, fight and pray until all may have their fill and be at peace.
In the name of Jesus we pray,

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Anthem

For Everyone Born

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

(Select one)

GTG 769

GTG 766

Sending

We Will Go Out with Joy

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

(Select one)

GTG 539

GTG 747

Charge and Blessing

Siblings in Christ, you have heard the Word proclaimed. We have shared in grace again at the Lord's Table. We are agents of God for righteousness and justice in the world. God is doing a new thing; do you not perceive it? This new thing is happening through us. As you are going, let God's light emanate from you, be a beacon and refuge wherever you go. May the God of peace, love and liberation be with you now and until the end of time. Amen.

(Do not be afraid to try new things to ritualize the sending and blessing. In order to join Christ in service, and to learn how to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in sharing the Good News, we must first know our neighborhood, and who are our neighbors? We encourage churches who are able to offer a Neighborhood Exegesis after worship for all who are interested in exploring further who their "neighbor" truly is, and the ways in which we can experience Christ already at work, gathering people, working in peoples' lives in the community. We encourage intergenerational groups to meet together and share in this neighborhood experience. If your church isn't able to offer a Neighborhood Exegesis experience, perhaps you plan a "Dwelling in the Word" fellowship gathering outside the church building: in someone's home, caravan to a local park, join with another worshiping community over a meal.)

Neighborhood Analysis Exercise

Group Preparation

1. Lead **Dwelling in the Word** on Luke 10:1-11 (attached)
2. Introduce the idea of a neighborhood visit. Emphasize that the goal is to get to know more about the neighborhood and its people. We do this by using all 5 senses. We are not going out to teach anything, to convert anyone, or to change the neighborhood, just to learn from the people who know more about it than we do.
3. Ask participants if they have any ideas how they can learn about the neighborhood. They will probably mention looking at the houses and businesses, observing what kind of services are available, listening to what languages are spoken, talking to people, etc. Press them to come up with as many ideas as possible by asking, “what else?”
4. Explain parameters:
 - They will be going out 2 by 2 just as Jesus sent the disciples (3 is OK if you have an uneven number)
 - What time they need to return
 - Pray with your partner before leaving the building – that you will find the right people to talk to, that you would be observant and respectful.
5. Give three assignments:
 - Buy something to eat or drink (I often send them out over lunch and ask them to buy their lunch in the community)
 - Talk to at least one person
 - Bring back a token
6. Give the list of things to look for (attached)

Dwelling in the Word

Luke 10:1-11

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

Reflect:

1. Listen to the passage.
2. Underline any words or phrases that stand out.
3. Sit quietly with those words.
4. What message do you hear?
5. Share with another person.

Debrief Observations:

- Who do you see? Describe the people.
- What are they doing?
- What conversations do you observe?
- Are people alone or in groups?
- Do you see people walking on the streets? Driving? Sitting? Biking?
- How are the people dressed? Pay attention to details such as shoes, jewelry, hair and clothing styles.
- What do you hear and smell?
- Pay attention to the town infrastructure: sidewalks, streetlights, stop lights, signage. What do they tell you about the community?
- Describe the houses you see: single family, apartments, condos? Are they well cared for? Do you see toys in the yards? Cars parked out front? What can you tell about the community?
- What kind of signage do you see? Advertising? Fliers on telephone poles?
- What is your overall impression of the community?
- Is there anything that you might expect to see in a community that seems to be missing?
- Describe the commercial district: what stores do you see? What stores are not present? What signs of commercial vibrancy do you see?
- What businesses do you observe? Can you get a sense of what people in this community do for a living?
- Where are the children? Is there a school in the community? What signs of children or youth activities do you notice?
- What leisure activities can you observe? Is there a gym, movie theater, sports facility, etc.
- What churches or other community gathering places do you observe?