

# Feb. 2023 Prayer Connection

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 [my.stonecroft.org/2023/01/25/feb-2023-prayer-connection](https://my.stonecroft.org/2023/01/25/feb-2023-prayer-connection)

January 25, 2023

Welcome to the Prayer Connection Lenten Guide. This guide will serve as your Prayer Connection through Holy Week. You can use it by yourself or with a group. If you use it with a group that meets weekly, simply pray that whole week's prayer prompts together. If you want to do this with a small group Bible study during Lent, you might consider doing Ordinary People. Extraordinary Hope. Each week's prayers go hand-in-hand with one week's session from that Bible study. You can download a free chapter here (LINK <https://extraordinarypurpose.org/#preview>)

Let these weeks of prayer bring you closer to your Lord and Savior as we anticipate the holy, hopeful, day of Easter. It is the remembrance of the day upon which our faith hinges, the day God made a way for us to be reconciled to himself through Jesus Christ, the greatest hope we could ever live for.

## **Week One: Feb. 15-21**

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**Theme: Discover hope from knowing God values you – no matter what.**

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### **Day one: Prepare your heart**

Read: 1 John 4:8

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Pray: Contemplate how the very nature of God is love and how he has shown you that love. Praise him for these many ways.

### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities**

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Pray: As we contemplate God's love for us, ask Him to turn that into love for others so powerful we want to enter their lives with hope.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: Psalm 66:16

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me.

Pray: Ask God to prepare you for encounters with those who desire to hear more about him.

#### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: 1 Samuel 26:24

“Now may the Lord value my life, even as I have valued yours today. May he rescue me from all my troubles.”

Pray: That government leaders and workers would see the intrinsic value of each and every human they serve in their position.

#### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Matthew 10:39

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Pray: For more women to find their true life in Christ by sharing their faith and growing in the knowledge of him.

#### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Genesis 30:22

Then God remembered Rachel’s plight and answered her prayers...

Pray: Know that God remembers you and loves you. Bring him your plight as your loving Father.

#### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Deuteronomy 10:21

He alone is your God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes.

Pray: Praise God that he sees you and knows you, and wants a relationship with you no matter what you’ve done or where you have been.

### **Week Two: Feb. 22-28, first week of Lent**

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**Theme: Discover hope by finding certainty in an uncertain world.**

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**Day one: Prepare your heart.**

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Read: Philippians 4:8

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Pray: Pray for God to help you think on him and his truth, instead of the world and its problems, deceit, and half-truths.

### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities**

Read: Romans 3:22

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Pray: To give us eyes to see each person we encounter as someone to be loved and to give them an opportunity to believe.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: Psalm 33:4

For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.

Pray: Ask God to fill your heart with certainty of his word and presence when you have opportunities to share your faith.

### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders.**

Read: Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.

Pray: That government leaders would desire and champion truth in all they do.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Psalm 16:3

The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!

Pray: That the people of Stonecroft would wholeheartedly seek to do the godly work of raising up more women to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, that it would be pleasing to the Lord.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Psalm 78:72

He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.

Pray: Ask God to help you rest in the certainty that he will care for you and what's on your heart. Present your requests to him.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Proverbs 1:7

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Pray: Offer praise to God of truth and wisdom. Praise him for being our certainty in an uncertain world.

### **Week Three: March 1-7**

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**Theme: Discover hope in a God who repairs relationships.**

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#### **Day one: Prepare your heart.**

Read: Ephesians 2:19

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

Pray: Let it sink in that you are a member of God's family. Ask him to help you see yourself as a citizen of heaven.

#### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities.**

Read: Isaiah 55:1-2

"Is anyone thirsty?

Come and drink—

even if you have no money!

Come, take your choice of wine or milk—

it's all free!

Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?

Why pay for food that does you no good?

Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.

You will enjoy the finest food.”

Pray: For God to allow you to prepare a banquet of hope for those who need to experience God’s loving mercy.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: Psalm 22:22

I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people.

Pray: Ask for restored family relationships so that you can be the light of Christ in their lives.

### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: Proverbs 7:4

Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family.

Pray: Ask for God to pour out wisdom on the government leaders that puts people first over profit or greed.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Psalm 133:1

How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!

Pray: Ask God for ironclad unity among Stonecroft, for rifts to be healed and friendships to be strengthened.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Galatians 6:10

Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Pray: Ask God how you can love the body of Christ and strengthen her for his Kingdom.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Ephesians 1:5

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Pray: Praise God his mercy in adopting us into his family through Jesus Christ.

#### **Week Four: March 8-14**

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**Theme: Discover hope in the freedom of forgiveness.**

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#### **Day one: Prepare your heart.**

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:10

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

Pray: Pray for a heart that seeks repentance, and praise God for his forgiveness.

#### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities.**

Read: Matthew 26:28

...for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

Pray: Ask for hearts that are ready to see their sin and desire the forgiveness that only comes from God.

#### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: 1 Kings 8:47

But in that land of exile, they might turn to you in repentance and pray, 'We have sinned, done evil, and acted wickedly.'

Pray: For a deep conviction of our own sin so that we might have compassion on those who do not know God's forgiveness yet.

#### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: Matthew 18:21

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

Pray: For forgiveness amidst government leaders, especially across party lines, so that all can work together toward the good of the people.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Ephesians 4:13

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Pray: For growing unity among those in Stonecroft in a way that attracts more people to become a part of the mission.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Pray: Ask for a strengthening to commit our lives to following God and allowing our lives to look different in a world where being a Christian is not always celebrated.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Colossians 1:13-14

Pray: For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

## **Week Five: March 15-21**

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**Theme: God promises never to leave you and always advocate for your best.**

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### **Day one: Prepare your heart**

Read: Psalm 16:11

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Pray: Spend some time seeking God's presence and asking for him to fully envelop you.

### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities**

Read: Psalm 5:5

Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil.

Pray: Ask to be reminded that we once stood outside God's presence but because someone took the time to tell us about Jesus, we can now be with him.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: Psalm 26:8

I love your sanctuary, Lord, the place where your glorious presence dwells.

Pray: Ask for a heart to see more people come to love God in this way, a true relationship.

### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: 1 Kings 8:11

The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of the Lord.

Pray: Pray for people in positions of power to encounter the glorious presence of the Lord in a way that changes them forever.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Genesis 19:27

Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the Lord's presence.

Pray: That everyone in Stonecroft eagerly meet with the Lord every day to know him more and more.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Joshua 6:8

After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams' horns started marching in the presence of the Lord, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the Lord's Covenant followed behind them.

Pray: Ask for a heart of obedience as a response to God's presence in your life, his assurance of wanting what's best for you.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Psalm 22:25

I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

Pray: For opportunities to share with others how God is meeting you right now in your life as an act of worship.

## **Week Six: March 22-28**

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**Theme: God waits open-armed to fill you with his hope.**

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### **Day one: Prepare your heart**

Read: Psalm 22:10

I was thrust into your arms at my birth. You have been my God from the moment I was born.

Pray: Come before God as one who needs to be held. Ask for his arms to become your home.

### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities.**

Read: Exodus 6:6

Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the Lord. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment.'

Pray: To be reminded that we are reaching out to those enslaved by sin and that Jesus came to set them free.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith.**

Read: Proverbs 31:20

She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

Pray: Ask for a heart that welcomes anyone in need of hearing that Jesus loves them and died for them.

### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: Psalm 44:3

They did not conquer the land with their swords; it was not their own strong arm that gave them victory. It was your right hand and strong arm and the blinding light from your face that helped them, for you loved them.

Pray: For government leaders to know that all good comes from God alone and to turn to him for victory and hope.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Mark 10:16

Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Pray: Ask that everyone in Stonecroft become as a child in God's eyes, ready to accept from his hand and to believe without wavering.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Isaiah 59:1

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.

Pray: Trust God with your deepest questions and requests.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Psalm 68:19

Praise the Lord; praise God our savior! For each day he carries us in his arms.

Pray: Offer him praise for always being available to us no matter our circumstances.

*Pause between March 29 and April 1.*

## **Week Seven: Palm Sunday, April 2-Easter Sunday, April 9**

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**Theme: Follow Jesus on his path to the hopeful cross.**

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### **Day one: Prepare your heart**

Read: Matthew 21:9

Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God for the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

Pray: Offers prayers of praise and rejoicing as if you were there on those streets of Jerusalem when Jesus rode in on a donkey, bringing the truest hope each human needs.

### **Day two: Pray for outreach opportunities**

Read: Matthew 22:15

Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.

Pray: Pray that you won't be discouraged by those who choose not to accept the Good News. Pray for new chances to love people well this week.

### **Day three: Sharing your faith**

Read: Matthew 26:1-2

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Pray: Ask God to open hearts and minds during this Holy Week to have conversations about why this week is so special.

### **Day four: Praying for our nation and leaders**

Read: Luke 22:28-29

"You have stayed with me in my time of trial. And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Pray: Pray that a desire for God and his holiness would sweep through the offices of government, that they would recognize who is the truest Ruler of all things.

### **Day five: Pray for Stonecroft**

Read: Matthew 26:12

"She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial."

Pray: Ask God to bless the lives of the hundreds of women committed to pouring themselves out for Jesus through their work with Stonecroft.

### **Day six: Personal supplications**

Read: Matthew 27:33

And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means “Place of the Skull”).

Pray: Come boldly to God with your requests knowing that he did not spare his own son at the Place of the Skull for each of us.

### **Day seven: Prayers of praise**

Read: Luke 24:21

“We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.”

Pray: Praise God that the Messiah came to rescue more than Israel and that he is not seated at the right hand of the Father, securing our hope in heaven with him.