

FALL
PRAYER
GUIDE

2024



PLACED UPON THE MONSTON (CASTING SHADOWS)

"Look I AM MAKING
EVERYTHING
NEW!"
- JESUS



Prayer Initiative - Church Wide
Prayer Focus: Downtown Churches
Sept. 15, 2024 - Oct. 27, 2024 - 6 weeks

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Church,

During Jesus' earthly ministry there was a day He violently cleared out the temple. He was passionate for the people of God and the place of His presence to be kept holy, pure, and undefiled. And as He drove out those who had been making the house of God less than it was meant to be, He pointed them back to the desire of God's heart, "My house shall be a house of prayer..." (Luke 19:46).

As the people of Jesus we want to delight the heart of our Father. We don't just want to be a church who prays, we want to be a praying church! We want to be immersed in prayer until everything we do is an overflow of prayer. The deeper we go with Jesus in prayer, the more we realize that prayer and abiding are the same thing. Prayer isn't just talking to God, it's a lifestyle of remaining close to Him, hearing Him, and asking for the things we want most--whatever is on His heart.

So this Fall we're praying for Jesus' church in our city.

We're going to set time aside over the course of six weeks to pray for Jesus' church in Vancouver to grow in holiness, unity, and life in the Spirit. We're going to ask for an increase in courage to share the gospel, for the raising up and strengthening of our pastors, and for Jesus' kingdom to come here through us! Along with those themes we've asked five specific downtown churches to share their current requests with us. Each Sunday during this season of prayer we're going to highlight one of those churches in our gatherings and ask our Father to meet their needs. For week six we're asking you to approach a local church in your neighborhood and commit to praying for a specific request from them.

Church, we want to see Jesus' church in Vancouver healthy, alive, vibrant, and moving in the power and presence of God. So please join us and invite those around you also. Fast, pray, and lean into the heart of God for His people in this city. We know He will give us what we ask in His name (John 14:13-14).

Pastor Matt

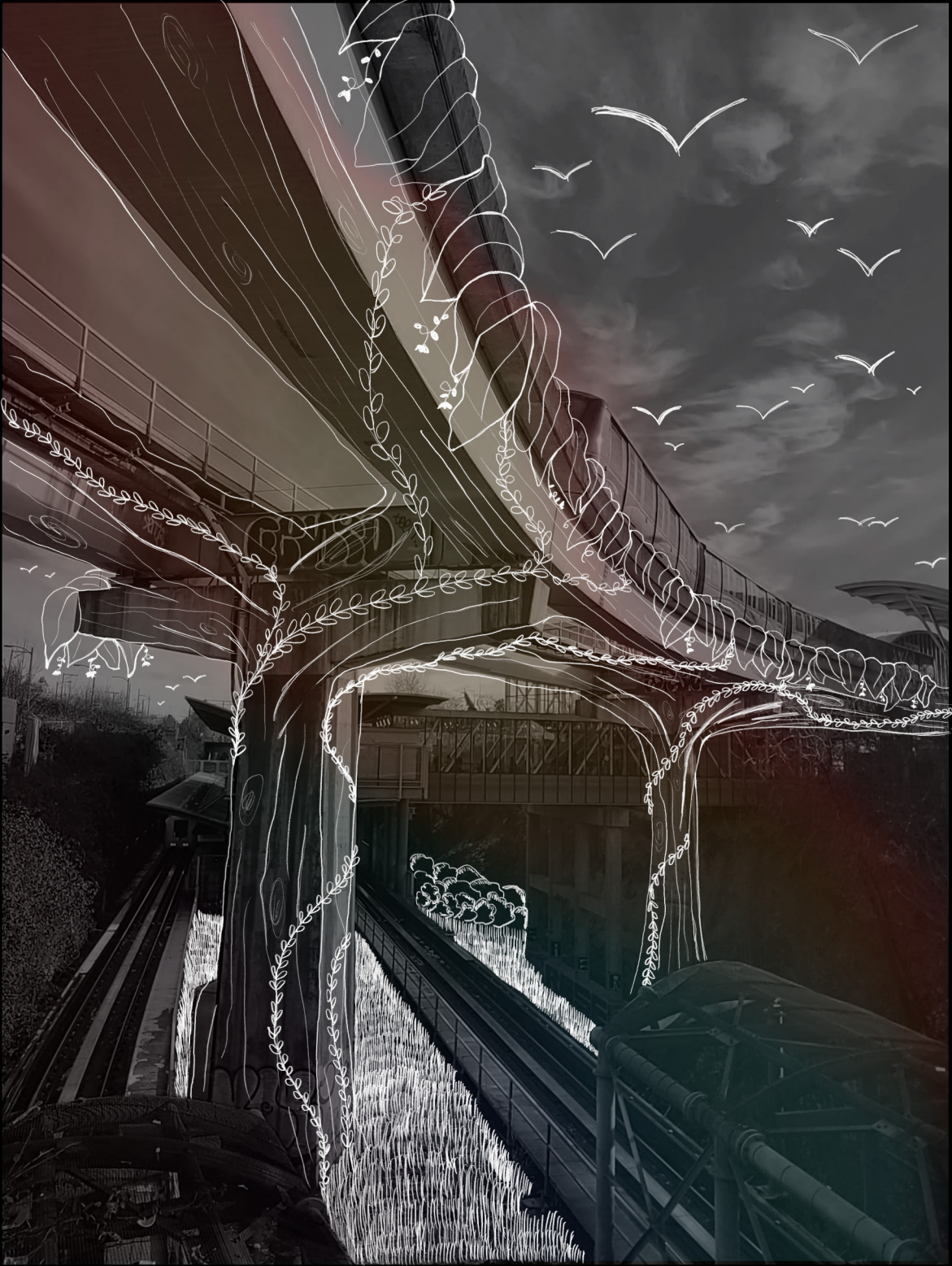
A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Matt", with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first letter.



OVERVIEW

This season of prayer will begin with a Prayer & Worship Night on Wednesday, September 18th and continue for six weeks. Each week we will pray a theme over the church in our city as a whole and for a specific downtown church together on that Sunday. The sixth week we have left open for you to approach a church in your neighborhood to ask how we can pray for them.

Each week of this prayer guide includes a theme, a local church with their request, and a scripture to meditate on and pray through over the course of that week. There are also brief prompts for you in praying on your own, with your Gospel Community, and for parents with your kids. Use them as starting points for however Jesus' Spirit will lead you to pray!





WEEK 1 | SEPTEMBER 15 -21

Theme: For holiness in the church.
Church: church: untitled

Request: “That we would be a people of His presence, set apart for His purposes in the city. And faith for the remainder of funds for our building project.”

*“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”
(2 Corinthians 6:16-18, 7:1)*

On Your Own: Choose a day to fast from food this week or fast from something through the whole week (ie. social media, coffee, sugar, TV). Holiness is about desire. Do you desire God more than anything? Do you desire for the people of our city to know Jesus? If not, ask God to grow those desires in you. He will. That is a promise!

With your GC: Introduce the idea for week six: find a local church to reach out to and pray for. Begin praying about which church.

For Parents: Be intentional about including your children in these 6 weeks of prayer. Maybe start this week by talking about God’s desire for us to be a holy people like he is holy. A simple definition is: To be holy means to be unique, separate from all other things, and absolutely pure and perfect. - *Consider including a prayer of confession if your child is old enough to understand.*

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WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 22 -28

Theme: For unity in the Spirit.

Church: The Way

Requests: “That people far from God would become followers of Jesus. For godly leaders to help disciple our congregation. For The Way College, that God would entrust men and women who want to get trained for long term ministry in a Canadian local church. For a stable physical space for morning services in Vancouver to launch another location, host offices, college classes and Alpha. And grace to move into a season of maturing as a church.”

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”
(John 17: 20-23)

On Your Own: Take time to reflect on any areas of your life where you may be contributing to disunity or harboring unforgiveness. Maybe you’ve been hurt by a church in the past. God wants to heal that area. Unity in the people of God delights His heart. Unity doesn’t mean we agree on everything or look and think exactly the same. Unity is not sameness but love in diversity. It means we choose to love those in Jesus no matter what.

With Your GC: Decide which neighborhood church you will approach and who will reach out to get their request.

For Parents: Bring the theme into your family prayer time throughout the week. Start with praying that you would have unity and love as a family that would extend to your friends and neighbors too. Read the John 17:20-23 passage together and pray through it.

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WEEK 3 | SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5

Theme: For an outpouring of Jesus' Spirit
(His mind, heart, love, and life).

Church: Coastal Church

Requests: "Prayer for our 30th anniversary." Let's ask for the Lord to bless Coastal Church more than ever during this milestone year!

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
(Luke 11:9-13)

On Your Own: "Come, Holy Spirit" is an ancient prayer. Throughout your day invite the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in your life. Ask also the Spirit would pour Himself out on His church in the city in greater measure than ever before. We can pray this with confidence because it is God's joy to give us more of His Spirit!

With Your GC: Make sure you have chosen a church in your community and a person who will be responsible to reach out to the church. We're praying for them in two weeks!

For Parents: Take some time to pray with your children this week, asking the Holy Spirit to fill them and all of the Christians in our city.

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WEEK 4 | OCTOBER 6 - 12

Theme: For the church to have courage to preach the gospel and testify about Jesus.

Church: First Baptist

Requests: Let's pray for First Baptist as they transition back into their church home. For spiritual health and a sense of encouragement through this next season.

*"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)*

On Your Own: This week as you pray, take time to ask the Lord what holds you back from sharing the gospel more frequently. Confess what He shows you and take a step in the opposite direction!

With Your GC: One more week to make sure the designated person has contacted the neighborhood church you've chosen.

For Parents: Read Acts 4:23-31 with your children and pray for boldness to share Jesus' love with the people in their lives. Also ask that all Jesus' people in Vancouver would have increased faith and courage!

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WEEK 5 | OCTOBER 13 - 19

Theme: For the pastors in our city.
Church: St. Peter's Fireside

Requests: "That our church would be given the grace to find our comfort, rest, hope, priorities, vision, unity, etc. in Christ only. That He would be exalted, trusted, and obeyed in this season, for His glory and our good."

*"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
(Isaiah 40:28-31)*

On Your Own: Every Christian is a part of Jesus' body and we recognize the unique role that pastors are called to play. The work they do is beyond them so pray for their strengthening, encouragement, and spiritual protection. As you pray, remember that we are all "royal priests" (1 Peter 2:9) and called to full-time ministry. As you intercede for the pastors in our city you are reflecting the ministry of Jesus!

With Your GC: Confirm that you have the request from your chosen community church. This is your last chance to make sure you have them.

For Parents: In your prayer time with your children, pray for the pastors from the churches we've been praying for by name: Pastor Ryan, Pastor Jason, Pastor David, Pastor Grady and Pastor Justin. Encourage them to include any other pastors they know.

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WEEK 6 | OCTOBER 20 - 27

Theme: For Jesus' kingdom to come in our city.

Church: Your local community church

*"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."
(Jeremiah 29:7)*

*"Pray then like this:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."
(Matthew 6:9)*

On Your Own: The whole purpose behind this corporate season of prayer is that we desire to see God's kingdom come and His will be done here on earth. As you pray, use your imagination to picture what it might look like for God's kingdom to come more fully in our city. If God puts something specific on your heart, pray about it, share it! It is probably that He wants to use you to contend for His kingdom to come in that way. Don't be overwhelmed by how big or impossible it may seem. "For all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

With Your GC: Take time together to pray for the neighborhood church you reached out to. Pray their specific request and also ask the Lord to bless and strengthen them. Pray that this year they would walk in the fruit of abiding in Jesus more than ever before!

For Parents: Take your kids on a prayer walk past a church in your neighborhood. As you walk, pray for them together as a family. Make sure they understand that a wonderful way to have unity and to grow in love for other people in different churches is to pray for them!

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