

A person is kneeling in prayer, their hands clasped together, silhouetted against a bright, hazy background. The scene is set outdoors with tall grasses in the foreground and trees in the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

SPEAK, LORD,
YOUR SERVANT
IS LISTENING.

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Positioning to Hear From God

DAILY PRAYERS FOR DISCERNMENT

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Prayerfully, this guide will serve as a life-long resource for your/our journey with Jesus.

To say that Christians are faced with many situations along the path that require us to make difficult decisions is pretty accurate. The great news is that we never need to make those choices in isolation, and God is always present and guiding us more excellently.

Therefore, the hope is that far beyond this consecrated time of prayer and discernment, you will forever be mindful of the Holy Spirit and feel equipped to apply your God-given gifts of knowledge, wisdom, and discernment in navigating the many terrains which we encounter in life.

Be blessed all along life's journey,
Jeremiah 29 Task Force Team

Why Pray?

Christ Church Sugar Land, a United Methodist Community, is in a prayer and discernment period. The process is currently facilitated by the Jeremiah 29 task force team elected at the 2021 Christ Church Conference. The task force team consists of the following members: *Bob Ayers, Barbara Burnham, Ken Crouch, Sunday Coffman, Sue Fredrickson, Sarah Jowell, Gail McClendon, Joey Moreland, Jim Rose, Bill Stoltz, Jeff Thomas, Liz Williams, and Tom Young.*

Along with being elected by the Church Conference, members were tasked with the following mandate, "...study the question of our congregation's affiliation and how information can best be shared with the membership."

One of the most critical steps in the process is to ensure that we are intentional about seeking God and hearing from God, and recognize that that primarily occurs through prayer.

Therefore, we are asking that you join in this intentional, dedicated journey of prayer beginning September 1, 2022. There are several opportunities to participate:

- **DAILY PRAYER GUIDE**

Use this prayer guide daily. An online version is also available at christchurchsl.org/dailyprayer.

- **DAILY PRAYER WALK**

Pray for our church, while walking inside or outside the buildings. Sign up online at christchurchsl.org/prayerwalk.

- **PRAY DOWN**

Pause to pray for our church every day at 12:29 pm.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

A devout petition to God. Communion with God as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession. Prayer is more like a dialogue, where we speak to God, and the Lord speaks to us. Listening prayer centers around an explicit request for God's guidance. In making our request, we give God's guidance authority over the other voices we hear throughout our daily lives.

"Don't worry about anything but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel." - Philippians 4:6-7 CEV

WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

The fundamental definition of Christian discernment is a decision-making process, guided by God, in which an individual or Church makes a discovery that can lead to future action. In the process of Christian spiritual discernment, God instructs the individual or Church to help them arrive at the best decision.

First, Thessalonians 5:21-22 teaches that it is the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning: *"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."* The apostle John issues a similar warning when he says, *"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world"* (1 John 4:1). According to the New Testament, discernment is not optional for the believer, it is required.

WHAT IS WISDOM?

Wisdom is "knowledge, and the capacity to make due use of it."
The ability to discern inner qualities and relationships: insight.
Good sense: judgment.

WHAT IS THE HOPED-FOR OUTCOME?

The desired outcome would be continued Love and care for one another in whatever decision to move forward and be the body of Christ as members of Christ Church Sugar Land, Texas.

Day 1

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

FOCUS: *Mindful of God's Presence*

SCRIPTURE: *Philippians 1:9-10*

"9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,"

PRAYER:

Dear God, I pray that my attempt to hear from you would be void of a prescriptive response. I pray that your Love for your Church would become etched on my heart and in my mind such that my feelings and emotions would provide a sense of direction that leads to a response that would bring you joy and bless your kingdom.

May it be so, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 2

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

FOCUS: *Discerning the Will of God*

SCRIPTURE: *Hosea 14:9*

“Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, giver of all wisdom, bless me with a discerning spirit. As my life unfolds in Your presence, there are paths to follow and decisions to be made.

Guide me to better understand your will as I consider the options. Your ways are right; I want to be counted among the righteous who walk in them. You Lord have been so gracious to me in the past, and I continue to trust your guidance as I move forward. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: An Ever-Present Advocate

SCRIPTURE: John 14:16-18

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

PRAYER:

My beloved Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ; your words never fail to inspire and encourage me. I pray that the promised Holy Spirit will continue to be known by me, that the Spirit of truth will reside in me, and that my decisions will reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. Jesus, thank you for sending this advocate to me. As I pray this prayer, it is comforting to know that the Holy Spirit is interceding on my behalf. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: *Seeking God*

SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 105:4*

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”

PRAYER:

Most gracious heavenly Father, thank you for continually walking with me on my life’s journey. Even though you are constantly right here with me, the source of my strength, I confess that I often search for answers in today’s culture and in so many other places. To be honest, God, sometimes I forget about turning to you. Today, Father, I am doing as the psalmist said, I am looking to you, humbling myself before you, seeking your face. I am reminded once again of your Love, wisdom, strength, and power. Open my heart and mind as I turn to you, seeking your will in all my decisions, big and small, so that the choices I make will be pleasing in your sight. In Jesus’ holy name I ask for your wisdom. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: *The Indwelling of Christ in You*

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 3:17-19*

“...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

PRAYER:

Dear God, I come before you, thanking you for your great Love for me. You show me your Love over and over again, day by day. Oh, Holy Father, how deep is your Love for me; you sent your son, Jesus, to live, die, and be resurrected, for my salvation, and for that, God, I am eternally grateful. Today, Father, I ask that as I stand on your promises, you will keep me fully grounded in Your Holy Word and fill me with your great Love so that even as I seek your will, I can be your beacon to others who are searching. Allow others to witness my faith and see Your faithfulness and the goodness of Your Love. Asking these things in the precious name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: *Trusting in God's Plan*

SCRIPTURE: *Jeremiah 29:11*

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

PRAYER:

Most merciful and gracious God, thank you for being my comfort and strength. I know that I can lean on you when I find myself worried, scared, or nervous. Right now, God, the future looks so uncertain. But over and over again, in Your Holy Word, you assure me that the lot is in your hands, and yet still I am fretful. Today, I ask that you walk with me and all who are in a season of discernment. Help us all to make decisions that are pleasing in your sight. Let us seek you at all times. We are calling upon you, God, for your will to be made known.

Father, your children are listening with hearts tuned to you. We know that Your plans are for good. I ask that you wipe away all fear and replace it with Your plans for hope for the future. I ask these things in your Holy name. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 7

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

FOCUS: *Trusting in God's Purposes*

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 8:28*

"And we know for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

PRAYER:

Father, as I walk in this holy place, I pray that your Holy Spirit will guide me. May my Love for you lead me to the path that will be in this world and not be of this world.

Let your wisdom shine on me that my thinking will be your thoughts and for your glory and will, not mine. You are the answer; let me be your vessel. In Jesus' name, I pray, **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 8

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

FOCUS: *Trusting God to Lead and Obedience to Follow*

SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 2:9*

“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love him—”

PRAYER:

Let me know, Lord, let me hear, God, the path that I need to choose. Bring your Holy Spirit to guide me, your wisdom to direct, and to know that your Love will sustain me—as I walk today. I know you have prepared a place for the Church; help me to reach that place—knowing that destination will bring me closer to you. Make me a vessel of your Love that I may see You in my decision. You are my God; Jesus My King. Your Word, my answer. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 9

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

FOCUS: *God is Our Provider*

SCRIPTURE: *Psalms 23:1*

"The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing."

PRAYER:

Dear God, as I live in the mercy of each day, I pray that I become more and more faithful in trusting you. God, I desire to trust you in all areas of my life; mind, body, and spirit.

You are the source of every perfect gift. God, I want to follow you, lead, and guide me on the right paths. Please remove any doubt or fear that creeps in and replace it with peace, clarity, and courage to move in the ways of righteousness for your name's sake.

Amen.

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: Following God's Lead

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”

PRAYER:

All-Knowing God, I know that I can trust you!

However, there are times that my life may not reflect my trust in you. Take my heart and mind and clear them of feelings, emotions, and thoughts, such that whatever obstacles or clutter that might impede my pathway, they would be removed.

May I recognize that in all areas of my life, you are my Shepherd and always have my best interest at heart.

Lord, lead me and I pray that I will follow you. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 11

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

FOCUS: *We Belong to God*

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 8:16*

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

PRAYER:

Most gracious God, may I claim the fullness of what it means to be your child.

May I recognize that my family is all your children. I pray that as I see others, I will recognize that you desire for redemption and salvation for all. May I yield the fruit that bears witness that I belong to you, Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

May, your spirit in me bring honor and glory to your name. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 12

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

FOCUS: *Caring for One Another*

SCRIPTURE: *Galatians 6:2*

“Carry each other’s burdens; in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

PRAYER:

Dear God, we as a church are experiencing a challenging time; people feel weighted by the unknown. I pray that I would be attentive to others concerns and needs and be guided by the Holy Spirit in how to care for and support them.

God, you know that this journey is not easy, but with you, God, we can support and encourage others in ways that our Love for one another honor you. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 13

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

FOCUS: *Faith Expressed in Love*

SCRIPTURE: *Galatians 5:6*

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through Love.”

PRAYER:

Merciful God, I admit that often it is hard to reach out to see the best in others. Please help me be aware of when I become judgmental, critical, cynical, or any disposition that causes me to be distant without exercising faith. God, I pray that I would have faith enough to move forward to embody a love that is welcoming, caring and reflects the Love of Christ to all. In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: God Desires Humility

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:15-16

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

PRAYER:

Dear God, no matter what I am feeling, happy, sad, angry, joyful, you are with me.

When I cry, you are there; when I feel lost; when I laugh until it hurts, you are there. God, what a blessing to know that there is never a place or situation where you are not present. When I think about harmonious living, may I examine my heart and mind to ensure that I am contributing to the beautiful symphony. Lord, I pray that I would never be a hindrance to anyone’s ability to experience Christ. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 15

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

FOCUS: *Faith Expressed in Love*

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 4:4-6*

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

PRAYER:

God, may your calling for my life be clear. Lord, I admit that with the many distractions in life and invitations to be and do, I am not always clear on the better thing for my life. My heart’s desire is to honor the gift of life that you have given me and be a blessing to others. As I encounter others, may the power of the Holy Spirit remind me of my baptism and the covenant I have in you and with the Church.

May my hope rest firmly in you. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: Following the Word of God

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

PRAYER:

Dear God, your Word is a lamp unto my path and the primary guide for all aspects of my life. May my life reflect my knowledge of your Word and humility to obey the text as I choose to exercise free will. God, your Word says I have everything I need to live in your will and purpose for which you created me.

May my life be used as a vessel, a conduit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in thoughts, words, and deeds. May all that I do, bring you honor and exalt your holy name. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 17

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

FOCUS: *Trusting in God*

SCRIPTURE: *2 Corinthians 5:7*

"For we live by faith, not by sight."

PRAYER:

God, how simple life would be if I knew how things would turn out, or so I think.

God, often my desire is to have a clear picture of what the outcomes of my decisions will produce, before I decide. When I think about the implications of knowing, I wonder if my choices would be more self-serving or aimed at following the Bible. God, it would be easy for me to air on being more faithful if I could only know what you're going to do and yet as the Bible tells us, faith is the substance of things hoped for that we cannot see. So, God, I pray that my trust in you will produce greater faith in all areas of my life.

Lord have mercy. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: God Grants Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

PRAYER:

Most merciful God, I admit that as I take the time to reflect over my life, I have not always sought you for wisdom. God, I know that you desire for me to exercise discernment in all areas of my life so that I might live in ways that project the character of Christ each step along the path. So God, with the grace that you offer, I pause today to ask that you grant me the wisdom necessary to maintain a posture of assurance that with you, I can serve you faithfully as I journey through life. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: Leading with Godly Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 1:10-11

“Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this person, for who can govern this great person of yours?’ God said to Solomon, ‘Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king,”

PRAYER:

God, may my heart’s desire be like that of your servant Solomon. May I humbly position my mind and spirit to seek your wisdom that will guide me to perfectly serve your people; my brothers and sisters, sons, and daughters. May, my desire for worldly goods succumb to a yearning to live in your plans and purposes. And God, may I hold fast to what is right and good in your sight. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 20

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

FOCUS: *Both Wisdom and Understanding*

SCRIPTURE: *Proverbs 4:7*

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, speak loudly, for sometimes I miss the mark of hearing you. I fall short in pausing to inquire of you how best to move. Your Word tells me that it is in you that I live and move and have my being, and yet I seldom slow down to connect with you or to acknowledge your signs and signals. Wisdom is something that I need, Lord, please grant me a daily portion to stay on the path of righteousness for your name's sake and my good. Thank you, Lord, **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: *Praying with and for Others*

SCRIPTURE: *Colossians 1:9*

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,”

PRAYER:

Dear God, what a gift it is to know that you are available; always, everywhere, for any matters. And because of that, God, I know I can pray to you, and you are with me. What a blessing it is God that I can be assured that nothing will occur without your knowledge. Daily God, I ask for your wisdom and discernment in how and who to pray with and for. Holy Spirit, please guide me to your throne of grace. Amen.

THOUGHTS:

Day 22

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

FOCUS: *Being Teachable*

SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 119:66*

“Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.”

PRAYER:

Most gracious God, your commandments are simple, and yet God, I admit that I am not always intentional and consistent in following them. Please forgive me, God. God, I know that my life is richer and fuller when I love you with all my being and love others in the way you command. God, without your knowledge, I will fall short. So God, please infuse my mind with divine knowledge that I might be evermore faithful to your commandments. And Lord, I commit to do the work necessary to continue to learn and grow in my understanding of your word and will. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

THOUGHTS:

FOCUS: *Jesus is the Waymaker*

SCRIPTURE: *Malachi 3:1*

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.”

PRAYER:

Thank you, God! Thank you for your son Jesus Christ, and thank you for the Holy Spirit. God, thank you that you are all that I need. God, my heart is overwhelmed at a depth of care that you have given and continue to provide to ensure that the covenants that you have made with us, we experience throughout our life. God, you are the Waymaker; may we joyfully follow your path. Thank you, Lord. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

Day 24

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

FOCUS: *God is Always Available*

SCRIPTURE: *1 Chronicles 16:11*

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I come seeking you. According to your Word, I will find you when I seek you. Lord, I am seeking you because I need your strength. Lord, I need your power to submit to your will. I need your strength to live into your plans for my life.

I need your strength to fulfill your purpose for me. Lord, I am seeking you with all my heart and soul. I need you, Lord! Thank you for always showing up!
Amen.

THOUGHTS:

Day 25

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

FOCUS: Choosing God

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

PRAYER:

Gracious and Wise God, the world is loud, the world is busy, and it is distracting. God, I want to be fully available to you, and yet...May the patterns of my life create a beautiful tapestry that makes you smile and bring you joy. God, I know that you are the source of self-control, and I yearn to be more like you and less like the world. May I be faithful in all areas of my life as I resign to your will. **Amen.**

THOUGHTS:

