

PRAYING FOR 30 DAYS

A Season of Prayer for Hillside Church

November 16-December 15, 2019

Saturday, November 16 Praise and Adoration

"Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness...The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace." Psalm 29: 1-2, 10-11

Almighty God, we begin today a Season of Prayer for Hillside Church. In obedience to your call, we unite our hearts in praise, adoration, and thanksgiving. You are ever faithful, full of compassion and lovingkindness. We are grateful for the strength and peace that is ours from Your hand. You alone are worthy of our worship today and forever. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Sunday, November 17 Confession

"If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong."
1 John 1:8-9

The psalmist reminds us (Psalm 66:18) that confession of sin opens the way for the Lord to hear our prayers. Begin this season of prayer with confession.

Holy God, lead me to confess any sin that is getting in the way of my relationship with you. Thank you for being faithful and just to forgive me and to restore me to fellowship with you. Amen.

Monday, November 18 A New Name

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."
Psalm 32:8

God of All Wisdom, help those in our church who are responsible for the many details involved in changing our name. Give them wisdom for decisions and opportunities to share our story with others in the community. Help them know the best ways to "get the word out" about our new name and about who you are calling us to be. Amen.

Tuesday, November 19 Guidance from God

"...Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord." Ephesians 5:8b-10

Heavenly Father, guide us as a church with a new name to the wisdom You have for us. Let us learn that we may guide each other and those we encounter who You send to us. Amen.

Wednesday, November 20 Being Witnesses

"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Loving God, You called me out of the darkness and into Your wonderful light. You did this because You love me, not because I did anything to deserve this. Thank you. Many others around me don't know who You really are. Change me so that I become better able to show others who I know You to be and who You want to be for them. Amen.

Thursday, November 21 One Another

“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.’” Matthew 11:28-30

Lord Jesus, we get tired and need rest and healing for our souls. Grant us teachable spirits to accept Your yoke and Your teaching so that we might receive the rest our souls sorely need. In Your powerful name we pray, Amen.

Friday, November 22 Tell the Children

“We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD. We will tell of his power and the mighty miracles he did.” Psalm 78:4

Our Mighty God, help us be obedient and faithful to tell others, especially the next generation, what You have done in our lives and in our church. Renew us so that we see who You are with fresh eyes and clean hearts. Use our tongues to speak and sing Your praises. Amen.

Saturday, November 23 The Hillside Mission Statement

Follow Jesus. Love Others. Share Hope.

A mission statement describes what a group will focus on, what its goals are, what motivates every decision. These words let us know what we are going to be about as Hillside Church.

Father God, show us how to live out the mission You are giving us. How can we be stronger followers of Jesus? Show us. In what ways do You want us to love others? Empower us. Help us comprehend the hope You give us so that it freely spills over on those around us. Amen.

Sunday, November 24 Praise

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:15-16, 19-20

Holy God, help us have hearts of love toward one another and hearts of gratitude to You for all You give to us. Stir up a spiritual hunger within each of us Amen.

Monday, November 25 A New Name

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless...No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.’” Genesis 17:1, 5

God Almighty, we will soon take a new name as a body of believers. Guide us to understand what other changes You are calling us to make. What special destiny are you offering us? What new mission? What promises? We trust in You, El Shaddai, our All-Sufficient One. Amen.

Tuesday, November 26 Guidance from God for Pastors and Staff

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

God, protect our pastors Rob, Hong and Lucio and our administrator, Dina, as they minister in Your name. May their ministries flourish bringing glory to You and hope and healing to all those You bring into their lives. Amen.

Wednesday, November 27 Being Witnesses

“Make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace.” Colossians 4:5-6

God of Grace, help all of us, even the shy and reserved among us, allow Your Spirit to empower us to be warm welcome-givers to our guests. May visitors receive gracious hospitality and a desire to return if that is Your will for them. Amen.

Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving Day

“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness to us and for Your loving provision in unexpected ways. You continue to show us new ways to do things and You keep providing material resources as well as new ideas to help us accomplish Your work. All praise to You, our Creator God. Amen.

Friday, November 29 Growing Young

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Lord, we are blessed to have active and articulate young people among us who care about others and seek to serve You. Continue to guide and protect them. Grow our children’s, youth and college student population by 40-50% in 2020. Guide us to the next youth pastor You have for us so that person may be in place by May 2020 and will stay at least 2 years. Thank You for hearing our prayers. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Saturday, November 30 Follow Jesus

“Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. ‘If any of you wants to be my follower,’ he told them, ‘you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?’” Mark 8: 34-37

Lord Jesus, we want to be rejuvenated and fully changed into new people as we learn to follow You more obediently. Grow excitement within us as we gather for worship and anticipate what new thing You will teach us. Help us trust that Your plans for us are far better than anything we can think up on our own. Grow us to become soft and pliable in Your hands, taking delight in You above everything else, making You our top priority. Amen.

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent/ Confession

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

Forgiving God, help us come before You in repentance and confession. As we receive forgiveness and cleansing from You, we will be able to move forward with room in our hearts for You during this season of Advent. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Monday, December 2 God's People

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb...And they were shouting with a mighty shout, 'Salvation comes from our God on the throne and from the Lamb.'" Revelation 7:9-10

Savior God, You have brought people from many nations to Chapel Hill and to our church. Grow our ability to find new and creative ways to do ministry across languages and cultures (Chinese, Hispanic, Burmese-Karen, and English). Ease feelings of awkwardness and strengthen our communication with one another. Motivate us to work together as we model to the world Your vision of how things will be in heaven for eternity. Amen.

Tuesday, December 3 Guidance from God for Elders, Deacons & Treasurer

"If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously without finding fault, and it will be given you." James 1:5

Generous God, bestow Your wisdom on these leaders we have chosen. Empower them to hear from You as they make the best plans for our congregation. Strengthen their faith by reminding them of all the ways You have helped us in the past. Fill their hearts with joy as they serve You. Empower them to see Your best future for us and to keep on leading us forward. And prepare others in the body to accept the call to serve in these roles in the future. In Christ's holy name, Amen.

Wednesday, December 4 Ministry of Reconciliation

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

We pray that black and white people at Hillside will become motivated, with humility, to understand one another and, in love, truly become brothers and sisters. May this lead in the future, with Your help, Holy God, to Hillside becoming the Chapel Hill epicenter for racial healing and interracial friendship. All of this can come about only by Your Spirit and if we recognize it is being done to bring You glory. Amen.

Thursday, December 5 Declare God and Jesus

"I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." Psalm 22:22

Holy Father, in the new named congregation let our declaration be clear, strong and loud to present You and Your Son to the community and the world. Grow in each of us a heart for those seeking You. Give us compassion and patience to persevere in prayer and in becoming friends with those who don't yet know You. In Your time, bring each of them to salvation. Amen.

Friday, December 6 How to Live

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus... The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it." 1Thessalonians 5:16-18, 24

Holy Father, help each of us maintain an awareness of Your goodness regardless of circumstances or appearances. Help each of us have an attitude of openness to You always. Amen.

Saturday, December 7 Food Distribution/Love Others

“Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day.” Isaiah 58:10

We praise You, Mighty God, for the partnership with Point Church to offer food to the hungry in our community. Open our eyes to other new ministry possibilities that You have for us coming from this monthly effort. May the Good News we share also be food for hungry souls. Amen.

Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent/Praise

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

Father God, Your steadfast love extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. We praise You and thank You that You do not change. As we move forward with You to a new season in the long life of our church, help us always to be mindful of You, the Unchanging One, the Overcoming One. Amen.

Monday, December 9 Shared Language of Prayer

“Dear brothers and sisters, we always thank God for you, as is right, for we are thankful that your faith is flourishing and you are all growing in love for each other.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Each Sunday our church is home to worship services in Chinese, Spanish, the Karen language and English. Each service is led by one or more individuals called by God for the work they are doing in that language. Praise God!

Loving God, help all of us at Hillside realize that the language of prayer is one all believers share. Help each congregation grow in both numbers and in the spiritual nourishment that is offered. Praise for the leadership teams that You have called out for each group. Show us how we can be better co-workers for the Kingdom by focusing more on what we have in common than on what is different. Draw us together in love and service. Amen.

Tuesday, December 10 Guidance from God for the Worship Team

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening, accompanied by the harp and lute and the harmony of the lyre. You thrill me with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done.” Psalm 92:1-4

Each week our worship team members plan and prepare and then lead us in worship. They use keyboards, guitar, drums and voices to guide us into proclaiming God's love and faithfulness.

Holy God, we thank you for the talents and abilities and gifts the members of our worship team bring to rehearsals and times of worship. Continue to use them mightily as they lift up the name of Jesus each week. We ask that You raise up 3 to 5 new instrumentalists to join our music ministry in 2020. Adding new members to serve alongside the faithful and committed members we have will expand the music ministry reaching more people for You. Amen.

Wednesday, December 11 Being Witnesses

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” Philemon verse 6

Our Father, please help each of us share our faith in our daily lives. Guide us to opportunities to learn how to do this more naturally and effectively. Bring to us people who are hurting and are in search of healing, people who are looking for more in life than they've found so far, people who are desperate to hear about the Hope we know awaits them. Love others through us as we allow Your Holy Spirit to work in us. Amen.

Thursday, December 12 One Another

“Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing together a body of believers called Your church. You have gifted each one of us as the Holy Spirit has determined so that we form one body to love and serve You. You have arranged each part of the body soon to be called Hillside just as You want her to be. Help each of us allow Your Spirit to use us to truly help one another. Amen.

Friday, December 13 Remember

“Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done. Sing to Him; yes, sing His praises. Tell everyone about his miracles. Exult in His holy name; O worshipers of the LORD rejoice! Search for the LORD and for His strength, continually seek His face.” Psalm 105:1-4

Almighty God, You know we can get caught up in our present situations and forget all You have done for us in the past. Help us remember all the times You have provided for us as individuals and as a church. Remind us of stories from scripture and from our own lives that prove You are on our side, that You love us, You help us make decisions, You comfort us, You heal us. And then instruct us in how we may use these memories to spark songs of praise and words of testimony. Amen.

Saturday, December 14 Share Hope

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...” Ephesians 1:18

Father, I pray for improved spiritual vision. May Your Holy Spirit open our eyes to understand how You are at work always and to join in what You are doing in our church and community. Guide us to seek out those who need hope and then help us with all gentleness and respect share the hope we have in You. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent/Hillside Church, A Baptist Fellowship

“This is what the LORD says--...’Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:16, 18-19

“Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.” Revelation 2:17

Creator God, the day is finally here! We fully receive our new name today—Hillside Church, A Baptist Fellowship. You are inviting us to a new beginning. Protect us from the evil one who does not want Your Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Grant us discernment to see clearly Your will for us. In Your word new names mean new roles. Guide us through Your plans and Your will for Hillside Church and the stone to come to each of us in Your time. We commit ourselves to being Your people and Your being our God. Alleluia. Amen.