

Prayer Vigil --- March 2020

Thank you for taking the time to join our prayer vigil. Our hope is that our time together (via technology) and apart (in our homes) will be a blessing to everyone who participates as we go before the throne of grace together.

Certainly there is great need to pray at this time. To that end please take a few moments to meditate on the following reflections and scripture passages as you prepare your heart to pray.

Also, if you are interested please click the [Facebook link](#) which will take you to an interactive page where other people from our church and around the world will be joining together to pray over the next 24 hours.

Gord is facilitating the Facebook page and will be reading a chapter from Luke at the beginning of each hour (there are 24 chapters in Luke). This story ends with Passion week and the empty tomb which is very fitting for this weekend. Alongside this there is an opportunity to pray with him and others who may have gathered at the same time.

Finally, because this prayer vigil has been opened up to people beyond our own church all Lighthouse/Fort George specific requests have been moved to the end and only first names will be used.

God bless
-Pastor Dan

Beginning Meditation

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Psalm 46:1

Let us lift up those who are fearful. May they find refuge and hope in Jesus.

May many come to faith in Christ. Help us to share His love with the fearful, showing that Christ is the answer for the sin problem and that He can bring healing.

May God’s people see ways to show God’s love. May we all have supernatural wisdom in knowing how to help those in need. May the Gospel grow stronger and the virus weaker.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7,8

Asking is the level where most intercession begins. It is always the right time to ask God.

Seeking is a more intensified form of prayer, implying greater earnestness, continued perseverance and often deeper hunger and desire. Seeking prayer is willing to hold on in intercession until the answer comes. At times the seeking is so urgent it is not irreverent to knock on Heaven's door. Jesus went beyond asking and seeking in Gethsemane. He cried with loud crying and tears. He was knocking until He was heard." (quotes from "Mighty Prevailing Prayer", by Wesley Duewel)

Prayers for the Corona-Virus Pandemic

We are in a very different world these days. This virus has invaded our world, and changed it, like nothing else has ever done before. And, like in the plagues of the Old Testament, this virus calls for the Children of God to cry out to our Father. This is a time for us to unite in prayer.

Considering this please lift the following points up to God in prayer asking Him to use this situation to turn people towards Himself, and remembering that He is in control:

Please pray for:

1. All the churches going to online worship services. Pray that we not only keep touch the people of our church, but also that this medium will reach many who might otherwise not come inside a church.
2. All those who are affected financially by this pandemic. Pray for God's provision.
- 3 All caregivers. From Emergency Medical Services to home care providers. Pray for safety for them and their families.
4. The residences in care homes who might not understand why their loved ones can't be with them at this time.
5. The homeless and those who rely on support groups like AA, NA and others. Pray that they will be able to find the support they need to stay safe.
6. All those who are in the shipping industry, truck drivers, train engineers who are travelling across the country bringing food and medical supplies. Keep them safe on the road.
7. Our neighbours and friends who may not have access to internet and difficulty staying in touch with church services and other supports. Pray for God's provision (And perhaps plan to phone and encourage one or two of them after praying)
8. For unity in the body of Christ, that we might encourage each other through this time.

9. For those who will lose loved ones, give them comfort.
10. For wisdom for pastors and other clergy. Ask for wisdom to deal with people who come to them for answers.
11. For those who serve at soup kitchens and food banks.
12. Government leaders as they guide us through this may they stay safe.
13. Our children keep them safe and help them to understand why things are so different at this moment.
14. For students who are unable to go to class. And for senior students who have graduation concerns. Pray for peace.
15. For God's mercy and a quick end to this virus. For healing for those have been infected and peace for those who may not recover.

Prayer for The Church Around the World

This epidemic has impacted millions of Christians, especially in 3rd world countries where there is little access to medical care or even clean water for washing. Life is often difficult for Christians in these areas. Let's pray that God might intervene. Below are some snapshots into life as a Jesus follower in some difficult locations. As you read them please pray for God's comfort and strength for these believers.

China

One pastor in a church in Wuhan (where the virus began) said the covid-19 is a rarely seen disaster, yet presents an opportunity to glorify God. All members of his church who had the virus have now recovered. The church has gone to on-line worship. The church has 54 small groups. More than 30 of these groups meet daily on-line to pray, do Bible study and share. There are many smaller churches with members who have the virus. Christians wearing protective gear daily deliver meals, masks, sanitizing spray and medical supplies to those in need. Last year when the church had its yearly fasting and prayer, Feb. 3-5, the event was shut down by the police. Now even a police officer said there is need to pray. The pastor said, "This epidemic is an opportunity for us to introspect our faith, reflect on ourselves, strengthen our spiritual life and depend on God."

Please pray for Wuhan as they struggle to recover after this outbreak. Many communities are still blocked off and permits are required to leave their subdivisions and buy food.

Nigeria

A man named Solomon and his wife Mercy have run a Christian orphanage since 1996. The children were taken from them and Solomon is in jail, unable to pay the bail. The children are in government care. 6 of them have escaped and returned to Mercy. Pray for Solomon's release and the reopening of the orphanage.

Iran

Life for Christians in Iran is difficult at the best of times. When COVID-19 first hit many Imams in Iran refused to acknowledge there was a problem. Next they proclaimed that the US and Israel were to blame for the virus. Thousands of men and boys were seen licking and kissing the tomb of a dead "saint" during an Islamic religious celebration. Now with more than 27,000 (as of Mar. 26) virus related deaths, the government is imposing curfews.

Iran had more than 189,000 people in jail, many of them political prisoners or Christians. Now 85,000 prisoners have been released from the overcrowded jails, to curtail the spread of the virus but Christians are still incarcerated because they are a "threat to national security." Some of these have health issues. It is a crime to turn from Islam yet the number of Christians continues to grow. Pray for our brothers and sisters there.

Italy

Pray for the Samaritan's Purse who is highly involved in the area. They airlifted a 68-bed field hospital to Italy. Their mission- to provide spiritual and physical aid. They took 20 tons of medical equipment, a respiratory care unit and 32 disaster relief personnel. They are giving medical and spiritual help and working with local evangelical churches.

Pray for our Government leaders and our city (Pray for your own leaders and city if you live elsewhere)

Our Government

P.M. Trudeau

MP's Zimmer and Doherty

MLA's Shirley Bond, Mike Morris, John Rustad

Our City, Prince George

In other vigils we have prayed for our city. The needs are great.

Mayor Hall and councillors

For wisdom for us that we might reach our city

May our church neighbourhood have a hunger for God.

Our policemen, firemen and ambulance workers –protection and wisdom to do what is right.

Pray for the Christian ministries which have been shut down due to COVID-19
Youth For Christ, Ness Lake Bible Camp, Intervarsity International Students and others.

Pray for Nakita, Sam and others in Youth For Christ who cannot physically get together with those they are trying to help.

Pray that these and other ministries will soon be open.

Our Church, Lighthouse/Fort George

As our services and programs have been shut down many of our people are unable to connect with the church. There are many in our church without internet. Pray for their perseverance.

Pray for those who have only loose connections with church and may be “falling through the cracks” in this time. As for God’s perseverance on their faith.

For Pastor Dan and Nikki. May they experience good health, spiritual and emotional protection.

- boldness to preach the truth without fear of man
- wisdom in counseling and sermon preparation
- joy in their work
- family to follow God
- unity in church

For Pastor Spencer and Kiara. May they experience good health, spiritual and emotional protection.

- for their work with young people
- for wisdom in knowing how to connect with people during this time
- for all their work with technology

For those who are unwell among us:

Glen and Coralie’s daughter Marlie has diabetes which is affecting her kidneys. Marlie’s mother-in-law is in hospital with several health issues.

Frank, Doreen’s husband has stage 4 lung cancer.

Baby Thomas has breathing problems.

Jim is still suffering with much pain. Pray for wisdom for him and Brenda and the doctors.

Walter - It is very difficult for him, as Joyce has dementia.

Willie. – may the family and the doctors have wisdom as to what is best for him.

Anita - bowel cancer

Guy and Francine - blood clot

Marv - full healing

Fred - comfort and peace

Sandra - gives praise for a good medical report. No doctor app. for 6 mos. No chemo!

Wayne - strength and encouragement

Those who are grieving- Hilda, Barb and her family, Dorala

Caregivers- especially Ida, Marian, Susan, Abe