

# 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

## Christ's Church

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." **1 Peter 2:9-10***

- Pray that the Church would be deeply committed to knowing, proclaiming, and applying God's Word in the midst of a warped and crooked generation, that we might shine as lights of the gospel.
- Pray for unity in the Church, as we worship one Lord by one Spirit.
- Pray for the shepherds God has given to his Church, that they would lead by serving faithfully, that they would be encouraged in their ministry, and that they would point unswervingly to Christ as the Head of His Church.

## Our World

*"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." **Matthew 5:9-10***

- Pray that as we begin this new year, God would bring healing to our world and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Pray for Christian missionaries, especially in areas with high rates of infection. Pray that God would provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve.
- Pray for the protection of the vulnerable and for access to medical care.

## Our Nation

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." **Philippians 3:20-21***

- Pray for healing in our nation from the effects of long patterns of sin; particularly the sins of racism, idolatry, and pride.
- Pray that God would guide our elected officials as they make decisions for our safety, allocate resources for combatting the pandemic, and address all of its ripple effects.

## Our City

*"Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." **Jeremiah 32:17***

- Pray for wisdom for Mayor Strickland and the rest of our city leadership.
- Pray that God would pour out his Spirit on our city, that the Gospel would be boldly proclaimed in word and deed, and people would come to know Jesus Christ intimately as their Savior.
- Pray for wisdom in how to steward the recent stimulus checks that most of us are receiving.
- Pray for healthcare professionals and for space in our hospitals to care for those in need.

## Our Neighborhood/Neighbors

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry?" **Isaiah 58:6-7a***

- Pray for the protection of our graduates who are essential workers in our warehouses and working through Advance Memphis Staffing.
- Pray that our neighbors would have a mind to work as Nehemiah exhorts us (Nehemiah 4:6).
- Pray that the increase in unemployment benefits would not create a disincentive to work.
- Pray for our Staffing & Outsourcing partners and their ability to provide fair & livable wages.
- Pray for those who are struggling with roadblocks to employment such as past traumatic experiences, transportation, addiction, or childcare.
- Pray for believers in South Memphis to be faithfully committed to a local church, and for local churches to have strength to faithfully teach and apply the Word of God.

## Advance Memphis

*"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." **Psalms 90:12***

- Pray that God would give our staff wisdom on how to love our neighbors well and how to safely provide meaningful learning and working opportunities in the midst of a pandemic.
- Pray for all of our upcoming classes and programs for the year: Work Life, Faith & Finances, Anger Management, Forklift Certification, Staffing & Warehousing, and Employment Development.
- Pray that we would be used as an instrument of change in South Memphis—all to the glory of God.
- Pray for ongoing trust and long-term relationships in our community.