

ON MONDAY, MAY 17, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AS A
CONGREGATION TO BEGIN OUR SIX-DAY PRAYER JOURNAL!

Prayer JOURNAL

We have participated in our church-wide study.

We have heard and considered the sermon series.

We have read about each of the Transformed projects.

Now it's time to pray and reflect on the ways God desires to transform our hearts and our lives, and then to use us to transform our community.

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

—Jeremiah 29:7



Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you
have, for such sacrifices are
pleasing to God.
—Hebrews 13:16

DAY 1: Proclaim and Enact

Monday, May 17

Read Hebrews 13:15-16

The world is undeniably broken. People go hungry, don't have access to shelter, get lost in education systems, and the list goes on. What are we to do? As the church, we embody God's presence and serve as those who not only proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, but also enact the good news through tangible compassion and generosity, meeting people's immediate needs so that they can see God more clearly and encounter God's goodness. God equips us to become agents of real change for people, transforming their hearts, their lives, and their communities.

Hearts - How has God equipped you to be an agent of transformation? As you think of the ways, offer a prayer of gratitude, thanking God for these good gifts.

Lives - How have you seen God's life-transforming work accomplished through other people? Ask God to show you how to be a vessel for change in another person's life.

Communities - How do you envision the church community's work within the broader community? Pray for the church and its commitment to shine its light of compassion, generosity, and justice in the community.

Loving God, You call us as a Christian community to offer a sacrifice that is pleasing to you, asking us not only to verbally share the good news of your Son, but also to offer compassion that leads to generosity, generosity that leads to justice, and justice that leads to hope. May we offer "a continual sacrifice of praise to God." Help us to joyfully embrace this good sacrifice so that the world might know your unending love. Amen.

DAY 2: Building with Heart

Tuesday, May 18

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Throughout time, the church has constantly built upon previous generations' foundations. As the builders of this present generation, we are called to choose with care how to build upon the legacy we have received from those who came before us. The brick-and-mortar of the church contains within it a legacy of Christ's love passed down from generation to generation. This is why we allot physical space for ministry. These spaces are stamps of God's work and are vessels for real life-change. The church and its buildings are not just buildings; the transformation that happens within them is immeasurable.

Hearts - How have the physical spaces of the church made a difference for you and your family? Offer a prayer of gratitude for the ways you've experienced transformation inside this building.

Lives - Take time to imagine how lives will be changed by the places we will build. Pray for the people who will gather in these spaces, that they might experience the love of God.

Communities - Envision the impact our building projects will have on the Sharpstown and Gulfton neighborhoods. Pray for the community to experience authentic flourishing.

Dear God, There is no firmer foundation upon which to build than that of Christ. We are grateful to belong to a church with a legacy of building for the future, a church that builds not just with hammers and nails but with an eye toward changing hearts, lives, and communities for your name's sake. Make your presence known in the spaces we build so that people will know that you are the God who desires human flourishing. Amen.



For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

—1 Corinthians 3:11



DAY 3: Influencing the Next Generation

Wednesday, May 19

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

God calls us to a life of influencing others, which means our words and our efforts matter. The church makes a concerted effort in creating environments where people can experience first-hand the good news and love of Jesus Christ. While the pews on any given Sunday morning are perhaps the most obvious location for the sharing of God's transforming love, the church launches programs like Small Steps and the PX Project that go far beyond the walls of the sanctuary. These programs bring our influence and investment to the next generation and afford us the opportunity to demonstrate that they are loved by God. We get to model the life that Christ models for all of us!

Hearts - When you were growing up, who modeled Christ's love for you? Lift these people up to God in gratitude, thanking God for the ways they influenced your faith.

Lives - How can you be involved in the education and workforce development ministries launched and supported by St. Luke's? Pray for God to show you the ways you can be a vessel of influence in another person's life.

You yourselves have been taught by God to love one another...
—1 Thessalonians 4:9b

Communities - How do you see the church gaining influence in the community over time? Pray for our reach to extend beyond our imagination so that God will be intimately known to future generations.

God, Your love stands the test of time. We thank you for all who came before us and embodied your acts of love and mercy and emboldened us to do the same. Help us to be living examples of your goodness. Amen.

DAY 4: The Future of the Community

Thursday, May 20

Read 1 Chronicles 28:20

God calls the church to do meaningful work, but it isn't always glamorous. It is often the practical, day-to-day work of maintaining and supporting the existing ministries and programs that are vital to the mission of the church. In other words, we are called to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our collective call is to finish the work that was started long ago, knowing that we will ultimately invest in that which will outlive us. The church lives on, generation to generation, and we have the opportunity to take the reins, put our hand to the plow, and press on toward finishing well until Christ comes in glory.

Hearts - What has God entrusted to you? Offer thanks to God for these gifts.

Lives - How is God calling you to be a steward of what you've been entrusted? Pray for wisdom in the savvy investing of your resources. Where does the greatest need intersect with your desire to impact the future?

Communities - Try to envision the future of St. Luke's. What do you hope for this "beacon church" in the many years to come? Pray for our vision to transform the city with the love of Jesus.

God, Every good and perfect gift comes from you. Help us to take ownership of that which you've entrusted to us, not for our mere enjoyment but for the sake of continuing the work of building up your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.



God will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.
—1 Chronicles 28:20b



DAY 5: The Time Is Now

Friday, May 21

Read Isaiah 43:1-2

These are extraordinary times. After a year of shutdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a capital campaign may seem unusual. But the most-telling indication of a healthy church is found in its resilience. We are resilient people who have been transformed by Christ's love through others' compassion and generosity. Now it's our turn. We look within our hearts, listen to the voices of those who have gone before us, and begin to invest in the foundation set by Christ.

Hearts - How have you seen resilience at work in your life and in your church? Say a prayer of gratitude for God's presence and activity in the midst of trying times.

Lives - How do you see resilience taking shape in the lives of others? Ask God how you can show up for others the way Christ shows up for all of us.

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you,
O Jacob,
he who formed you,
O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have
redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.
—Isaiah 43:1b

Communities - How has God called you to invest in the Transformed Capital Campaign? Pray for meaningful transformation to take place through our collective compassion and generosity.

Dear God, Through our compassion and generosity, we bless your name. Help us to joyfully build upon the foundation your Son set for us. We pray that your good news would be made known through the projects of this capital campaign so that others may flourish while praising your holy name. Amen.

DAY 6: Prayers for the Projects

Saturday, May 22

Add your prayer in the space provided.

God of kinship, you say the City of God will be a place for the nations to gather, and the front door will never shut. The City of God will be a community center! So, I pray for the Community Center at Gethsemane, that it would be a glimpse of eternity, a place of belonging for young people, and where hope has an address. In the name of Christ. Amen.
—Rev. David Horton, TEACHING PASTOR GETHSEMANE CHURCH

God of Wonder, Thank you for the wondrous gift of Small Steps Nurturing Center. We pray that these children experience your wonder and glory each day. And, Lord, transform our hearts so that we can be a vessel of yours in the lives of these children and families. We love you! Amen. —Julie Ellerbrock, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Heavenly Father, In the midst of a time when much is uncertain, you gifted us the joy of the PX Project fellows. They have taught us more than we have taught them, and we are so grateful for who they are. Guide us as we build a safe place for each other. May we continue to grow alongside one another, forging new paths and building deep connections that center around your love for all of us. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.
—Meredith Davis, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Thank you, Lord, for the gift that is St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Guide us to be fiscally responsible, forward thinking stewards of our church grounds and buildings. In so doing, we honor your gifts and your glory. Amen.
—Anne Culver, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Gracious God, we thank you for those, 75 years ago, who had a vision of a church that would be a beacon of light to a growing city. We pray that our work each day would advance that vision, and that our beloved spire would be renewed as a symbol for our city of the light and love of Jesus Christ in both good times and those of challenge. Amen.
—Dr. Tom Pace, SENIOR PASTOR

