

Winter 2021 - Daily Pandemic Prayer

A congregational guide for praying together through lockdown

Purpose

Following a new series of lockdown measures announced January 6th 2020 by the Government of Quebec and affecting Church 21 Montreal's worship gatherings, your pastoral team is calling you, our people, to pray together.

We are commanded to pray. Prayer helps us discern God's will, overcome temptation, confess sin, offer praise, and bring requests, and ultimately glorify him. Where the lockdown invites loneliness, prayer invites us into divine community. Where the lockdown invites anxiety, prayer invites us into a future with God's perfect peace. Prayer keeps us dependent and sustained by God

We are also instructed to prayer together. God wants us to express our needs not just as individuals, but as a community. Jesus taught us to pray together (Matt 7:7 'you' is plural, Matt 18:19) and it was a priority for the Apostles (Acts 1:13 etc.) Corporate prayer is a vital part of sustaining a healthy and renewing church body, and this guide is one way in which this can be carried out. We desire to see a wave of renewal in our hearts, our local church, our city, and our province.

The daily prayer points below are guidance in how we are praying for our home, church, and city. These intercession points are in addition to any personal or city group requests you will have.

Remember, mature relationships include both talking and listening. Take time to be silent and still so you can listen to what the Holy Spirit might want to say to you. Be patient and aware, but most of all, just enjoy His presence. If you experience answered prayer, receive guidance, or are convicted of sin, keep track of this by writing it down. We'd also love to hear back from you.

At certain times during the week, you may see video updates on Facebook about this.

Daily Prayer

Set aside 15 minutes daily for praise, confession, and intercession. Remember your personal requests, and take time to listen to the Spirit.

Week 1

Date	Praise	Confession	Intercession
Mon Jan 11	You are the living God (Jeremiah 10:10), who hears our prayers (1 John 5:14)	We become dependent on dead, powerless gods like money and approval.	For a culture of prayer and dependence on you at Church21, that we would be aware of our need for you.
Tues Jan 12	You are alpha & omega (Rev 1:8) Everything starts and stops with You (John 1:3)	We try to author our destinies and start things without you	For God to be first & author in our life decisions, church decisions, and would be known as Alpha & Omega in Montreal.
Wed Jan 13	Your are the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)	We try to lead, feed, protect, and care for ourselves without depending on you.	For our Church 21 pastors Mike, Dwight, Brian S, Brian A, Jordan, David, Norton to shepherd well in dependence on the Good Shepherd
Thurs Jan 14	You are the head of the Church, uniting us for your purposes (Colossians 1:18, 1 Cor 12:4)	We neglect, avoid or minimize our need and responsibility to community	For unity at Church21 For our City group leaders and apprentices For each person in our city group
Fri Jan 15	You are a wonderful counselor, our hope in you is well placed (Isa 9:6)	We look for joy and hope in things of the world.	For those facing isolation and depression. Name specific people in our church or city groups.
Sat Jan 16	You are healer, our great physician (2 Kings 20:5, Matt 9:12)	We despair over disease or we turn away from the physical pain of others	For our health care workers, those hospitalized for COVID-19 and those dependent on an overworked healthcare system. For healing.

Week 2			
Date	Praise	Confession	Intercession
Sun Jan 17	You are our purifier, you set us free from sin (1 John 1:9)	We are sinners that, in pride, too often refuse to bring our sin before you	For a culture of repentance at Church21, that we would have the humility to openly confess sin and desire transformation by your Spirit.
Mon Jan 18	You are Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16)	We trust in other gods, we disbelieve in your sovereignty	For Justin Trudeau, our federal governance and my MP. That they would lead Canada with wisdom, for the good of all people and the glory of God.
Tues Jan 19	You are King of an everlasting kingdom (Psalm 145:13)	We lose sight of the values and power in your Kingdom, we pursue our own kingdoms	For Francois Legault and our provincial governance. That Quebec would consider various vulnerable populations as they make decisions.
Wed Jan 20	You are our righteousness (Jer 23:6)	We try to make ourselves good or set our own standard of right and wrong.	For Valerie Plante and our local councillors. That Montreal would be governed so as to enable true justice and goodness.
Thurs Jan 21	You are our provider (Genesis 22:14)	We are filled with anxiety, disbelieving your promise to provide (Matt 6:25-27)	For those who have lost work this year. For business owners that are struggling in Montreal.
Fri Jan 22	You are a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5)	We act like orphans, looking elsewhere to find belonging	For children in the foster care and adoption system. That God would place them in safe homes.
Sat Jan 23	You are Redeemer, you have bought us back from slavery (Job 19:25)	We continue to live like slaves to our sin, rather than grasping the freedom you offer	For the work against PornHub/MindGeek. For Rafaela and the team working to fight this. For women who have been exploited in sexual slavery.

Week 3			
Date	Praise	Confession	Intercession
Sun Jan 24	You are the bread of life, you satisfy our souls (John 6:35).	We are too easily satisfied with less than what you offer.	For a culture of starving for your presence at Church21, that we would have a holy discontent with anything less than you.
Mon Jan 25	You are creator (Genesis 1:1)	We worship creation, rather than allowing the beauty of creation to draw us back to the creator	For artists in Montreal. That they would bring beauty to the city in a way that is glorifying to God, that they would know the ultimate creator.
Tues Jan 26	You are God of all compassion and comfort (2 Cor 1:3-7).	We seek comfort in the material and distractions of this world.	For those grieving or who have not been able to properly grieve with restrictions the loss of loved ones, for comfort and hope in God.
Wed Jan 27	You are a refuge (Psalm 28:8, 46:1)	We try to build our own shelters, protecting ourselves, and neglect those who need refuge	For those who are living on the street this winter. For organizations like welcome home mission, the open door etc. that provide food/shelter.
Thurs Jan 28	You are a teacher (John 14:26).	We resist your instruction, we trust other sources of authority over you.	For Quebec's education system. Wisdom for teachers and school administrators. Protection for minds and bodies of children in school.
Fri Jan 29	You are a friend of sinners (Matt 11:19)	We are poor friends	For the church to experience the friendship of God. For loving and vulnerable friendships with spouse/children/ roommates etc.
Sat Jan 30	You are a God who sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17)	We listen to the voices of others and forget the song that you sing over us.	For our hearts to continue worshipping God even while we can't sing together. For musicians at Church21 to grow and use their gifts to God's glory.

Week 4			
Date	Praise	Confession	Intercession
Sun Jan 31	You are emmanuel, God with us (Matt 1:23), you were sent to rescue us	We resist or neglect our call to be sent into our neighbourhoods with your Spirit.	For a culture of hospitality and mission at Church21. That we would seek ways to love and welcome people virtually or however possible.
Mon Feb 1	You are a gracious God (2 Cor 1:3), you exalt the humble (James 4:6) and became a child.	We desire to exalt ourselves, to become like God (Matt 18:2-4).	For the children at Church21, that they would trust in Jesus and love Him. That they would find peace and comfort in Him during this lockdown.
Tues Feb 2	You are the truth (John 14:6)	We lie to ourselves and others because we wish for a reality different than what you've given	For the people in this city to love truth, that media and news outlets would pursue truth over sensationalism.
Wed Feb 3	You are an almighty and loving God (Psalm 68:4-6).	We fail to love you with all of our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbours.	For our neighbours, that they would recognize their need for you. That you would stir up a great hunger for you in our neighbourhoods.
Thurs Feb 4	You are our advocate (John 14:16)	We don't rely on your Spirit to advocate against Satan's lies. We don't advocate for others	For those who have suffered abuse or are living in abusive households during lockdown. We pray for protection and justice.
Fri Feb 5	You are the giver of life (John 10:10)	We prioritize the riches and pleasures of life over life itself.	For us to stand for the unborn and the sick & elderly who are being euthanized. For just laws in our land.
Sat Feb 6	You are the way of life (John 14:6)	We seek life along other paths, our hearts wander from you	For vision at Church21, that we would be willing to follow wherever God would lead us.

	Week 5		
Sun Feb 7	You ransom people from every tribe, language, people, and nation (Rev 5:9)	We tend to care more about people who look like ourselves	For those who are new to Canada and refugees, that we would be welcoming and generous neighbors. That we would stand against all forms of racism, be it in our laws or our hearts.
Mon Feb 8	You are our counselor (John 14:16)	We think we can counsel ourselves without you or our elders.	For the elderly and infirm in CHSLD. That there would be adequate staff and have families who care.

Congratulations, you made it! Instead of loneliness, you pursued divine community. Instead of anxiety, you pursued a future with God's perfect peace. We trust that praying this way helped keep you dependent and sustained by God.

Let us know how it went for you. Did you experience answered prayer, receive guidance, or grow in holiness? Reach out to me.

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