

Hope Hill Church Prayers for Lent

Week 2: Cultivating God's Love

Sunday

Call to Prayer

God's desire is for all of humanity to have an intimate relationship with Him. We are able to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We engage in a relationship with God through studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love, truth and compassion, which are found in Christ Jesus.

Spend a few moments in prayer and silence preparing your heart to receive from the Holy Spirit.

Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 48:9-11 (NLT)

O God, we meditate on your unfailing love
as we worship in your Temple.
As your name deserves, O God,
you will be praised to the ends of the earth.
Your strong right hand is filled with victory.
Let the people on Mount Zion rejoice.
Let all the towns of Judah be glad
because of your justice.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13 (NLT)

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Time of Reflection

Remember a time when you praised God for his love. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you the power to show this same love to your friends and neighbors.

Take a moment to pray about faith, hope and love. Meditate on each word one at a time. Reflect on how these things have impacted your own life. Pray that you are a reflection of faith, hope and love to others.

Missional Response

Is there someone in your life that needs faith, hope or love? How can you show this person one of these three today? Give them a call. Let them know you care.

Community Prayer

Pray that Hope Hill would be a community of people who value all people.

Monday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 59:16-17 (NLT)

But as for me, I will sing about your power.

Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love.

For you have been my refuge,
a place of safety when I am in distress.

O my Strength, to you I sing praises,
for you, O God, are my refuge,
the God who shows me unfailing love.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (NLT)

"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Time of Reflection

Remember a time when God has been a fortress for you. Praise him for his steadfast love.

Pray "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength." Let this be your prayer today, stopping to say it a few times today. Commit yourself to following this command.

Missional Response

Is there someone who needs a fortress in his or her life today? Reveal God's strength to this person by being a fortress for them in some way.

Community Prayer

Pray for Hope Hill community to be a place where people receive spiritual victory from the schemes and attacks of the evil one.

Tuesday

Call to Prayer

God's desire is for all of humanity to have an intimate relationship with Him. We are able to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We engage in a relationship with God through studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love, truth and compassion, which are found in Christ Jesus.

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 69:13-16 (NLT)

But I keep praying to you, LORD,
hoping this time you will show me favor.
In your unfailing love, O God,
answer my prayer with your sure salvation.
Rescue me from the mud;
don't let me sink any deeper!
Save me from those who hate me,
and pull me from these deep waters.
Don't let the floods overwhelm me,
or the deep waters swallow me,
or the pit of death devour me.

Answer my prayers, O LORD,
for your unfailing love is wonderful.
Take care of me,
for your mercy is so plentiful.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NLT)

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Time of Reflection

Take a moment to give your worries and cares to God. Pray that his abundant love would deliver you from your worries and cares.

As you release your worries and cares to God, pray that the Holy Spirit would breathe fresh life into your body and soul.

Pray "Love your neighbor as yourself." Let this be your prayer today, stopping to say it a few times today. Commit yourself to following this command.

Missional Response

Do you know who your neighbor is to the right and to the left of where you live? What about across the street? Make a batch of cookies and bring it to your neighbor. Don't be afraid to engage in a small conversation with him or her.

Community Prayer

Pray for Hope Hill to be a place of refuge, a place of healing and a place of transformation in our surrounding neighborhoods and towns.

Wednesday

Call to Prayer

God's desire is for all of humanity to have an intimate relationship with Him. We are able to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We engage in a relationship with God through studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love, truth and compassion, which are found in Christ Jesus.

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 116:1-9 (NLT)

I love the LORD because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.

Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!

Death wrapped its ropes around me;
the terrors of the grave[a] overtook me.
I saw only trouble and sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"Please, LORD, save me!"

How kind the LORD is! How good he is!
So merciful, this God of ours!

The LORD protects those of childlike faith;
I was facing death, and he saved me.

Let my soul be at rest again,
for the LORD has been good to me.

He has saved me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

And so I walk in the LORD's presence
as I live here on earth!

Luke 6:27-31 (NLT)

But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

Time of Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on the reasons you love God.

Pray that God would continue to grow his love in your heart.

Think about a few people who have hurt you over the past few days, months and years of your life. Pray for those who have hurt you.

Missional Response

As you go throughout your day, keep your ears open. Listen for anyone who is asking (directly or indirectly) for anything and give to him or her freely with no excuses.

Community Prayer

Pray for the staff at Ashland Elementary as they serve their students and colleagues throughout the school year.

Thursday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 118:1-4 (NLT)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Let all Israel repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

Let Aaron's descendants, the priests, repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

Let all who fear the LORD repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

Galatians 5:13-15 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

Time of Reflection

Give thanks to God and pray that his love would endure forever.

Take a few moments to think about times you have done another person wrong. Pray that the Holy Spirit would point out the anger and evil thoughts toward others in your heart.

Confess your sinful thoughts and actions to God, and pray that the Holy Spirit would plant love in your heart.

Missional Response

Is there someone you need to forgive or that needs to forgive you for a wrong you've done? Seek them out and bring reconciliation to that situation.

Community Prayer

Pray for the people of Hope Hill and people you know outside our church who are having a hard time forgiving individuals who have caused harm to either himself or herself or a loved one.

Friday

Call to Prayer

God's desire is for all of humanity to have an intimate relationship with Him. We are able to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We engage in a relationship with God through studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love, truth and compassion, which are found in Christ Jesus.

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 136:1-9 (ESV)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—

His faithful love endures forever.

the sun to rule the day,

His faithful love endures forever.

and the moon and stars to rule the night.

His faithful love endures forever.

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Time of Reflection

Prayerfully read through the psalm for the day again. Let the words wash over your body and soul.

Spend the next few moments in silence, letting God speak to you.

After you have been silent, pray that the love in your heart is like God's love: real and genuine.

Missional Response

Make plans to have a friend or a couple over for dinner in the coming days. Practice hospitality, take care of everything and make their time with you great!

Community Prayer

Pray for the mayors of Manassas, Woodbridge and Dumfries (or whatever town you're from). Ask God to give wisdom and discernment to do what is right for each community.

Saturday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 85:4-7 (ESV)

Now restore us again, O God of our salvation.

Put aside your anger against us once more.

Will you be angry with us always?

Will you prolong your wrath to all generations?

Won't you revive us again,

so your people can rejoice in you?

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,

and grant us your salvation.

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Time of Reflection

Pray that God would show you his love and share the joy of salvation with you.

Reflect on the hatred, envy and anger in your own heart. Think about times in the past few days you have not been a good neighbor. Confess these thoughts and actions to God, asking for his forgiveness.

Ask God to grant you strength so that you love those who hate you, who are jealous of you or who look down on you.

Missional Response

As you go throughout this day, be aware of times you are not being loving towards others. When people cut you off, pray a blessing on them. If someone is taking away your time, be patient with them. If someone is a bother to you in some way, pray that God would bless them and pour out His love on them just as He has on you.

Community Prayer

Pray for the spiritual growth of all who call Hope Hill their home church. Ask God for Hope Hill to be a thriving, healthy church where individuals are invited to know God and make Him known.