



*churchwide day of*  
**prayer & fasting**  
**PRAYER GUIDE**

# Sunday Evening

## W O R S H I P

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*Psalm 27:1-3*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

The scriptures teach us that God is real, and that he is actively at work on behalf of his people to provide salvation from the things that we fear (vv. 1, 3).

As worship increases, fear of others, fear of calamity, fear of rejection, fear of poverty, fear of sickness recede (though they never go away completely in this life).

Take some time to write down the things you are most afraid of in this season. Next, take some time thanking God for his complete power and involvement in your life. As Jesus says in Matthew 10:29, "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent." (CSB)

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## C O N F E S S I O N

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*Philippians 4:5-7*

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In this passage, God invites you to take everything to him in prayer and promises you an extraordinary peace (that passes understanding) as you pray.

Take some time to confess to God any spirit of prayerlessness, or being slow to pray, or rarely praying. Confess to him any of the ways you respond to your fears (obsessing, worrying, trying to fix things without his help and prayer).

# A S S U R A N C E

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*Philippians 4:5*

The Lord is at hand.

*Psalms 103:11-12*

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those  
who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions  
from us.

Philippians 4:5 is also translated "The Lord is near". God is near to you, even in times of sin and unbelief. He is there, through, Christ with arms open to forgive even the vilest offenses of the Christian who confesses and repents of his or her sin.

Take some time to thank and praise God for this unequivocal pardon, expressed in Psalm 103:11-12.

# P E T I T I O N

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*John 16:24*

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus exhorts his disciples to ask in his name. He links the asking of prayer to the fullness of joy.

As a church, we have identified some key areas in need of Jesus' power and work.

1. Pray for a movement of God's spirit to sweep through our church to ignite a new freshness in prayer, reading of scripture, and worship. Ask God first for yourself to be revived in these areas: Pray that you might feel God's presence as you pray, that scripture would penetrate your heart as you read and reflect, and that your soul would delight in him as you come together with your church family to worship. Next, pray by name that 3 to 5 other people at Iron Works would experience the same.
2. As our catechism declares, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, question 1). Ask God to show you anything if your life, habits, or schedule that hinders you from worship and enjoyment of him. As he reveals things over time, write them down and pray for power to let them go and to establish new patterns, habits, and schedule. Next, pray for this to take place for others in our church as well.

# Monday Morning

## W O R S H I P

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*Psalm 63:1–7*

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,  
when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

## C O N F E S S I O N

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*Isaiah 53:6a*

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his  
own way;

In the beginning, God created man and woman to have relationship with him. They spoke to one another freely, without fear or shame. After sin came into the world, this relationship became extremely strained due to our unbelief, sin, and weakness. But the thirst for God, the desire to know him is still there in all Christians. And God offers, freely, to all who will come to experience an overflowing abundance of blessing as we experience his presence and power. Take some time to think over this passage deeply and to enter into the kind of worship of God that it describes.

The scripture describes our direction in life as one of going astray, turning to our own way. Think over things in your life that would properly be described as you going astray, turning to your own way. Are there patterns of sin in your life? Some broad categories might include sins related to fear (worrying, people-pleasing, flattery, overworking, refusing to be generous with money), relationships (being harsh and overly critical, harboring resentment, gossip, controlling, manipulating), over wrongful indulgence of pleasures (pornography, adultery, overeating, misuse of money for one's self), and spirituality (having little or no desire for God or his word; de-prioritizing worship, prayer, and service; disinterest in mission).

Take some time to ask God to reveal to you areas in your life that are in contradiction to God's character. As he bring things to your mind, confess them and ask for his grace to turn from them.

## A S S U R A N C E

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*Isaiah 53:6*

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

The verse to the left goes on to tell us how God has put on Christ the sin of all of his people. Every sin you have committed (If you are in Christ) has been 100 percent, comprehensively, absolutely, wholly laid on the shoulders of Jesus Christ so that you bear it no more. Take some time to deeply rejoice in his complete forgiveness and pardon.

## P E T I T I O N

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*John 4:10, 13–14*

“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. ...

Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

This scripture is taken from Jesus’ discussion with a woman from Samaria who had been in a destructive pattern of divorce and sexual immorality. In other words, the above invitation is given to us sinners. Jesus here invites us to ask him for God’s version of the satisfaction that we all long for, and that we often look for in the wrong places.

Take some time to pray for the our church and city in this way:

1. Pray that we, as a community, would become dissatisfied with anything that pretends to be a substitute for God’s presence and power in our lives. Pray that we would reach the point where our souls long for Christ’s presence and power to fill our hearts, minds, and lives. Pray this first for yourself, and then pray specifically for 5 others in the church, and 5 others who are not yet Christians (family members, neighbors, co-workers, etc.).
2. Pray that you would experience refreshment and renewal in the practicing of the means of grace— spending time in prayer, reading (and meditating on) scripture, corporate worship, and community. If these things are not bringing refreshment to you presently (or often don’t), ask God to bring that about this year in your life. Next, pray for 5 others in the church and 5 others who are not yet Christians that they would experience this same kind of refreshment.

# Monday Afternoon

## W O R S H I P

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*Psalm 139:1–4*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

One of the distinctions of Christian faith is that the God that we worship has personal knowledge of his people at the most intimate level. Most religions in general view God as all-knowing, but Christian faith emphasizes that God is all-knowing and personally interested in the thoughts and ways of his people. Christian faith goes as far to declare that God's interest in his people extended even to the offering up of his one and only son on behalf of us. Take some time to worship our great God for these things.

## C O N F E S S I O N

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*Psalm 139:23–24*

Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

One of the blessings of the gospel is that we can ask God to show us our faults without fear of condemnation. The Psalmist worships God for his personal knowledge, and then in turn asks God to reveal areas where change is needed in himself. Let us do likewise and invite the searchlight of God's holiness into our lives and ways.

## A S S U R A N C E

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*Psalm 32:1–5*

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts  
no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of  
summer. *Selah*

I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

If you have confessed your sins to God, take heart. There is blessing in confession, because God responds by covering your sins. Take some time to thank God for his lavish forgiveness.

# P E T I T I O N

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*Matthew 7:7*

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

As we begin the ministry year at the church, we find ourselves in a place of significant blessing and also significant need.

Please ask God for leadership for the church. In every area (small group leaders, staff, officers), we find ourselves in need of others to come alongside and provide additional support and leadership for the operations of the church. As the Lord grows the church in numbers and responsibility, we are in the place of finding ourselves significantly understaffed. Please ask the Lord of the Harvest for additional laborers.

Please ask God for a movement of power in our community. Please pray for a harvest amongst those in Phoenixville (and in our lives in general) to experience

his power in such a way that they experience genuine Christian conversion. Please pray that God would draw several non-Christians into the Iron Works community and pray that we would see success in discipleship of these new people.

One of the highlights of the church study we undertook this summer is that there is a trend in our congregation where some do not feel aware of how God has gifted them and they are not thriving in the use of their gifts. Please pray for God to move in such a way that all of us better understand how God has gifted us. Please pray that this new understanding would lead to increased spiritual vitality as we use our gifts for Phoenixville and for Iron Works.