

PRAYER CALENDAR

WEEK

FOUR

LIVING IN FORGIVENESS

(FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS)

APRIL 7 - 13

2025

Monday April 7 : Local Church

INTRO: Let's begin with a confession - life in the church is not always easy. Sometimes it is rough, bumpy and bruising. Our hope for a perfect utopia often fails to be met in spectacular fashion. Let us recall that though we weren't promised "perfect" life within the church, we were promised life to the full. Experiencing life to the full within the church requires the regular practice of forgiveness within the church.

PRAYER: Father, as we seek to be your body here on earth, I ask that you might empower us to be a people of supernatural forgiveness. Jesus, help us to be quick to seek forgiveness when we have wronged another and equip us to pursue forgiveness with one another over the long term. Might the same forgiveness we have received from You, be the same forgiveness we show to others. Spirit, help me to forgive as I have been forgiven and might this practice define us as a local church.

SCRIPTURE: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Tuesday April 8 : Personal

INTRO: While there certainly exists a moment when our confession of sin and profession of faith leads to an ultimate forgiveness of our sin, the ongoing confession of sin, profession of faith and experience of forgiveness helps us to remain in right relationship with Jesus, as we navigate life in this world. We are not to be "one and done" people when it comes to asking for forgiveness. Regular confession before the Lord is good for the soul and great for our following of Jesus.

PRAYER: Father, I trust in your word today that by my confession of sin, You will forgive and purify me. I confess the sin in my life [be specific, if you wish] and ask for your forgiveness. I understand that this is not simply a rite or ritual, but a way that I remain in right relationship with You and others. By my confession, would You refine me as silver is refined, that I might be better used for Your purposes. Today, I choose to repent of my sin, relying on You, O Lord, for forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)



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Wed April 9 : National

INTRO: Today, we inherit a nation shaped by generations that have come before us. In a very real way, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. With this comes good ... but with it also comes evil. Our historical treatment of indigenous peoples is but one example of such evil. Today, let us pray for forgiveness for the sins committed by generations prior to us, seeking forgiveness of the Lord that will prevent us from replicating such evil and set us on solid ground as we move forward as a nation.

PRAYER: Father, I am saddened by the sin present within our Canadian history, and I ask today for your forgiveness to flood our nation, forming us to be a nation that proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the brokenhearted, and proclaims freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Help us to be a nation that walks in repentance and Your forgiveness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: "I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. From the days of our ancestors until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today. But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place[a] in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage ... What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins deserved and have given us a remnant like this ... Lord, the God of Israel, you are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence." (Ezra 9: 6-15)

Thurs April 10 : Global

INTRO: For centuries, men and women have sensed the call of God to go into all the world with the good news of Jesus, fulfilling the Great Commission in doing so. While much good has been done, we also acknowledge that, in our zeal and naiveté, our efforts have sometimes resulted in hurt, pain and evil. For this we ask forgiveness.

PRAYER: Jesus, you have commissioned us to be a people who go into all the world with the message of Your love for all people. We acknowledge that sometimes we have done this in a way that has not represented You well. Today, I ask for your forgiveness for those times when our missionary zeal has caused us to fail to be people of peace. Forgive us and help us, Spirit of God, to mend broken relationships with those who desperately need to hear the message of salvation and freedom available in Christ Jesus. May our history never pose a barrier to our future! Amen.

SCRIPTURE: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15-16)



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Friday April 11 : Young People

INTRO: Life's a journey – and the paths we start on shape where we end up. But let's be honest – it's not always easy to stay on the right path. There are so many distractions and pressures pulling us in different directions. One of the best ways to keep walking with Jesus is by practicing confession and forgiveness – being real with God when we mess up and letting His grace shape us. When we learn to do this early, it helps us keep growing closer to Him for the long haul.

PRAYER: Jesus, thank you for loving us, no matter what. Help young and old in our churches to turn to you when we mess up. Teach us how to ask for forgiveness and how to offer it to others. When we get off track, draw us back with your love. Make us people who live with honesty, grace, and a heart that's quick to forgive. God, we confess that as parents, grandparents, and leaders, we haven't always modeled forgiveness well. We've been distracted – and in some cases, we've forgotten the young people you've entrusted to us. Forgive us for the times we've made them feel unseen, unheard, or unimportant in your church. Teach us how to love like you love – with patience, humility, and a willingness to make things right. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Saturday April 12 : Leaders

INTRO: The demands of leadership within the church can be overwhelming – overwhelmingly joyful and overwhelmingly challenging. This side of eternity, we must acknowledge that all lead imperfectly and so, we must remember to pray for those in leadership over us that they might lead with a commitment to forgive as they have been forgiven.

PRAYER: Father, for our leaders we intercede. We ask that you might help them be men and women with rent hearts, not men and women who craft simply superficial displays. We pray that you permit them to be men and women with hearts oriented to Jesus; help them to continually return to the Lord with all of their hearts. Where forgiveness is needed, we pray they receive it openly. Where the offering of forgiveness is required, we ask that you give them strength to do so.

SCRIPTURE: "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2:12-13)



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Sunday April 13: The Least of These

INTRO: Often those experiencing marginalization and oppression are found outside of the reach of what we might consider a Christian religious system of forgiveness. Experiences of violence and marginalization can force people far from regular conduits to receive and extend forgiveness. This is not a new phenomenon - the impoverished, invalid, and otherwise afflicted were often prevented from receiving in the forgiveness they so desperately sought through the religious system of Christ's day. It is important then to recognize that Jesus did not replicate the creation of these same barriers. Instead, Jesus lavished forgiveness upon the least of these all throughout His earthly ministry. We ought to do likewise!

PRAYER: Father, help me to bear with those who might be considered among the least of our world, forgiving them as I have been forgiven. Lead me, Jesus, in being a person who extends forgiveness to those experiencing marginalization and oppression and might the forgiveness I extend enable such people to receive well the forgiveness they require from God our Father. Spirit, would you guide me in being an agent of Your forgiveness today.

SCRIPTURE: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)

