

UBC PRAYER GUIDE

A Time of Prayer for a Season of Transition

Overview - The true heart of prayer is that our conversations with God help align our hearts with His. There's nothing wrong with bringing our petitions to God; He wants us to do just that, but even more important is that prayer helps His love, character, and wisdom start to pour into us.

Prayer can also help us begin to glimpse God's hopes for us. During a time of pastoral transition, that's important for our church. And so we pray **not our will, but yours be done God**. We pray that prayer because God's hopes for our church are perfect and even better than we'd probably imagine all by ourselves.

So, for the next three weeks, we want to invite you to pray alongside your fellow church members. Each week we'll prompt you to pray for some specific things. In week one, we'll ask you to thank God for the good things He's done throughout the history of our church (the past). In week two, we'll ask you to pray about how God is at work right now in our church (the present). In week three, we'll ask you to pray about where God is taking us next (the future). All along the way, however, we will ask you to keep in mind that most basic part of prayer: to pray with Jesus "**Father, not my will but yours be done.**" If we pray that prayer together, amazing things will happen.

Psalm 37:3-5:

³*Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.*
⁴*Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
⁵**Commit your way to the Lord;**
trust in him, and he will act. (ESV)

Week 1 Celebrating the Past

Week 1 Overview - For the next seven days, we'd like to ask you to be in a mode of giving thanks in your prayers for how God has blessed our congregation in the **past**. God has done so many good things for us and through us that we need to remember. As you pray, keep in mind that the **past** is a gift that shapes us but isn't an idol that we worship. We are grateful for the **past** because it reminds us that the same God who blessed us is with us now and prepares us for our future.

Week 1 Isaiah 46:9-10

*Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.
I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'*

1. Lord, thank you for the former things that we have experienced at UBC. Thank you for the founders of UBC and their faithfulness as they followed you as you called UBC into existence.

Who can you call today to thank for their former influence or service at UBC?

2. Lord, thank you for all of our former pastors including Henry Adrion, Robert Creech, and Steven Laufer. Thank you for the ways you used them to speak into the lives of our congregation.

Try to remember a vital message you received during a sermon from the past. How can you pass that message on to someone else, or how can you continue to apply that message to your own life today?

3. God, thank you for all the opportunities you've given us to be a part of your work around the world, to travel to new places, and, more importantly, to build relationships with wonderful people in those places. You've done some powerful things through us that remind us what YOU can do and what we can do with your help.

As you remember what our church has accomplished in the past in global mission efforts, ask God to renew our passion for sharing His love with everyone, everywhere.

4. Lord, thank you for the wonderful gift of beautiful music that helps us worship you. You have gifted so many people in our church with a love for music that stirs our hearts and helps us lift our voices in praise to you.

Ask God to grow your commitment and desire to worship Him. What would it look like for you to come to worship with your heart ready, expecting to encounter God?

5. Lord, help us remember all that we have learned from the past. Help us celebrate where You have brought us ever since the beginning.

How long have YOU been at UBC? How can you celebrate everything God has given you in this congregation? Make a list.

6. Lord, we have not always been faithful in every way to your calling for UBC. Forgive us. Thank you for always giving us “rivers in the desert” (v.19) in spite of our fumbling and faithlessness at times.

In what ways can YOU move on from past failures or times of faithlessness and trust that God is overflowing with love and direction for your life?

7. Lord, help us to see all you’ve done for us in the past as a huge gift but also help us not be focused backward as a congregation but instead, help us look forward.

Take time to thank someone at UBC who blessed you, then go and bless someone else in the same way in the coming days.



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Week 2 Overview - This week, we are inviting you to pray about how God is working right now in our midst as a congregation. Pray that God will open your eyes and all of our eyes to see where He is powerfully at work among us, even in the midst of a transition and a pandemic.

Week 2 Living in the Present

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (NIV)

1. Lord, what does it mean to be “in Christ” today? Help us understand this great concept.

Do we believe that UBC belongs to God? If so, how does that affect how we respond to others and how we pray for UBC during this transition?

2. God, help us be united as a congregation in this season of transition. Help us put Christ first as a church and as individuals.

How can we contribute to unity and to a shared focus on Christ at UBC this week?

3. God, you have brought an amazing set of people to minister to us as a congregation. Thanks for all the ways they bless us.

When's the last time you said thanks to a member of our staff team? Stop and take a moment this week to express your gratitude to one that has blessed you.

4. God give us eyes to see what you're doing in our midst right now and the opportunities we have to be a part of it. Help us see the opportunities we have individually and collectively as a church to grow in Christlikeness, to share our faith, and to make a difference in our community.

Where do you see God at work in our church right now? Are you a part of what He is doing? Ask God to give you eyes to see and a heart to get/stay involved.

5. Lord, UBC is your church and you have given us the ministry of reconciliation. Help us to be reconciled first to you completely and also to each other.

With whom do you need to be reconciled today? Pray and go do it today.

6. God give us eyes to see the needs in our community that are all around us. Help us to see the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the hungry, the lonely, and the needy, and grow our desire to love them in your name.

What's one concrete need you can meet today? Ask God to give you an answer to that question and then go help.

7. Lord, you have given us the ministry of reconciliation. Help us be a church that you use to bring the lost to salvation through your Son Jesus Christ.

How can we be ministers of reconciliation for the lost today? Think about co-workers and family. How can you be an agent of healing?

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Week 3 Overview - This week we invite you to pray for the **future** of our congregation. Pray that God will show us where He wants to take us and what He is calling us to do. Pray that we will have the courage to follow Jesus into that **future**. Pray that God will connect us with a Senior Pastor who shares that same God-given vision of Kingdom impact.

Week 3 Preparing for the Future

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)



1. Lord, you know all things. You know the future of UBC, and it is better than we can imagine. Give us discernment to know that where we have been will help us see where you want us to be as a church in the future.

How will letting go of the past help me to be obedient to God's will for the future of UBC?

2. Lord, we are so far from being a perfect church, but you have called UBC to do great things. Please give us the endurance and courage to press on and realize there is no turning back.

In what ways do I need to appreciate and EMBRACE that God is moving us forward?

3. Lord, we should never stop growing in our knowledge of you and love for you. Show us, as a church community, that there is more beyond where we are now in our relationship with you.

How can I grow and show God my love for him? How will that be reflected in the way I serve in my community in the future?

4. Lord, thank you for laying hold of us as a community of believers. Help us to lay hold of you in order for your work to be carried out in us and through us as we share the Gospel.

How can I anticipate the different opportunities that will be presented to share the Gospel in the future?

5. Lord, we confess that change is hard. Strengthen our faith and trust that you have our future and our future pastor in your hands.

Am I truly trusting God with UBC's future? When I get discouraged, how do I react?

6. God, take us where you want us to go. Help us be faithful in the midst of changing times. Help us be willing to take risks for the sake of your Kingdom. Remind us that you want to do a new thing in our congregation that isn't a rejection of the past but is built on the foundation you have already laid.

In what ways are we open to something new at UBC? In what ways are we maybe not so open to something new?

7. Lord, thank you in advance for the one you'll bring to UBC to provide servant leadership. We know that all good gifts come from you. "All this is from God" (v.18).

Pray now for our future senior pastor. Pray that God will guide and direct and speak to that person and provide a spirit of discernment.