

# UBC PRAYER GUIDE VOL. 3

## A Time of Prayer for a Season of Transition

**Overview** - As we continue in our time of transition, our prayers keep us focused on God and help align our hearts with his. When we pray, his love, character, and wisdom start to pour into us and into all that we do.

During this season of pastoral transition, prayer helps us begin to glimpse God's hopes for UBC. And so we pray **not our will, but yours be done, God**. His will is perfect and his plan is even better than we can imagine.

So again, we invite you to pray alongside your church family for the next four weeks.

Now all glory to God, who is able,  
through his mighty power at work within us,  
to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.  
Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

### Week 1 Encouragement

**Week 1 Overview** - God has the power to do the impossible. The verses we will pray through this week encourage us daily to know who God truly is and that he listens, delivers, answers, sustains us and is present with us. He is an awesome God!



**DAY 1:** *He is God.* “I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:5-6 (NIV) *Read Isaiah 45*

**Prayer:** Almighty Father, In the midst of unrest and uncertainty, weariness and doubt I am so grateful to have the assurance of Your presence and power. When the holy task feels overwhelming and I feel inadequate, you have promised to equip me. In my weakness, You are strong. Thank you for shining truth and assurance on my doubts and discouragement.

**Question:** How can you battle weariness and feelings of inadequacy?

**DAY 2:** *God listens.* He is here. “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” Isaiah 43:2 (NIV) *Read Isaiah 43:1-13*

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for being in this moment with me. I know who You are and I know what You’ve done, but sometimes my situation or those of my loved ones seems so discouraging. But praise be to God! Who better to walk with us through this season than You? You are indeed mighty to save.

**Question:** What are you wrestling with today?

**DAY 3:** *God delivers.* “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:17-18 (NIV) *Read Psalm 34*

**Prayer:** Father, I know You understand pain and grief. You have experienced this very thing. Please cover us with Your love and comfort. Help us to release our pain and brokenness in exchange for healing and victory in You.

**Question:** When I am crushed and broken-hearted, to whom or where do I turn to for help?

**DAY 4:** *God listens, He answers.* “Don’t be afraid, Daniel,” he said to me, “for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.” Daniel 10:12 (CSB) *Read Daniel 10*

**Prayer:** What a beautiful illustration of Your goodness! In my life and in my prayers, help me to set myself and my limitations aside and to seek Your will and Your heart. There is no obstacle that keeps my prayer from being heard by You. Let my eyes see Your Holy Spirit at work.

**Questions:** What moves the heart of God? How often has Scripture illustrated the power of prayer to accomplish incredible things? How can we apply this to our lives today? *Read Philippians 1:9-11*

**DAY 5:** *God is with us.* “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 (CSB) *Read Isaiah 41*

**Prayer:** Almighty Father, I lay my fears and distractions at Your feet. Where else can I go? When I am low in spirit, I know you will hold me up with Your righteous hand. You are omnipotent. My defender and protector. Thank you for being present and taking action in my life.

**Question:** Have you ever felt alone in the midst of trials and difficulty? The enemy tells us that God is far away from us but the Bible has much to say about that. The words of Isaiah 41:10 are echoed throughout Scripture in the form of a promise or an action. *Read Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 43:2, Matthew 14:16-17, II Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 13:5*

**DAY 6:** *God sustains.* “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Isaiah 46:4 (NIV) *Read Isaiah 46*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, once again you remind me of Your consistent spiritual and physical provision. Help me not lose sight of who You are and who You have always been. You are all that I need. Let me rest in You and not allow myself to be distracted by the desires of this world.

**Questions:** Where do you turn to when you are discouraged? Our Heavenly Father knows you better than anyone else. Will you trust Him?

**DAY 7:** *God’s purpose stands.* “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.’ From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.” Isaiah 46:9-11 (NIV) *Read Isaiah 46*

**Prayer:** Your love for us is unmatched and we can trust You to fulfill Your promises. There is no one like You. Take each of us and continue to refine us for your purpose. Help us to cling to You and Your kingdom. Let this knowledge encourage us to remain faithful in Your work until it is completed.

**Questions:** What situation or tasks are you undertaking that might seem overwhelming at times? Are you seeking the Lord’s guidance in it?



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### **Week 2** Unity and Humility

**Week 2 Overview** - Throughout Scripture, believers are encouraged to be unified in thought and deed, focusing on our common hope in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. When we approach each other with humility, kindness, and gentleness in one Spirit, we can accomplish great things in his kingdom for his glory.

**DAY 1:** *A song of ascents. Of David.* How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1 (NIV) *Read Psalm 133:1-3*

**Prayer:** Holy Father, we desire to please you in every way. Your Word shows us what pleases you and one way is for your people to live together in unity. Please give us hearts that are focused on YOU first and foremost so in our common desire to please you, that we will live, work, worship, serve and pray together in unity.

**Question:** What issues distract me from fully focusing on pleasing God? How can I do a better job of pleasing God by being in unity with others during this time of transition?

**DAY 2:** <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT) *Read Ephesians 4:1-6*

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, reveal to me the areas in my interactions with others where I can be more humble and gentle. Give me patience with other believers, who are imperfect like I am. I ask you to convict my heart in areas where I am wrong in my thinking and actions, so that I can truly bind myself with my brothers and sisters in peace. Thank you for loving all of us and your church so much.

**Questions:** How am I doing in the area of humility? Are my words gentle and kind? Am I patient with others? Am I willing to perhaps admit where I'm wrong and to grow in peace with others when it might seem difficult?

**DAY 3:** Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? <sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT) *Read Philippians 2:1-11*

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for your sacrifice for all of us that binds us together in your love as a family of Christ followers. I pray that we find comfort in focusing on your love for all of us, and that our hearts are focused on loving you and loving others. Please give us one mind and purpose remembering our future inheritance as we pray for this transition and for the pastor you have chosen for us. Forgive us when we forget UBC is your church. We humbly seek to do your will.

**Questions:** How have you been encouraged by someone at UBC? Have you felt loving fellowship at UBC lately? In what areas can you help by being tender hearted and compassionate to others?

**DAY 4:** <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV) *Read Colossians 3:1-16*

**Prayer:** Lord, I want to be like you. Please help me be more compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient. Give me words of encouragement and love toward other brothers and sisters in Christ. Above all, please give me a heart full of forgiveness toward others – even on the hardest of days. You promise that love binds everything together in perfect harmony – please help me work toward that daily.

**Questions:** How have I exemplified compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience this week? What is keeping me from forgiving “that person?” What does the kind of love look like that “binds everything together in perfect harmony?”

**DAY 5:** <sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement allow you to live in harmony with one another, according to the command of Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with a united mind and voice. Romans 15:5-6 (HCSB)  
*Read Romans 15: 1-6*

**Prayer:** Thank you, Father, for encouraging and giving us endurance during this time of transition. You know our hearts and the love we have for UBC, please guide our hearts to live in harmony with others as we seek to do your will. May you be glorified during this process as you grow united minds and voices in us.

**Questions:** Am I living in harmony with others? Have I ever seen/heard united minds and voices? What was that like?

**DAY 6:** <sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. I Peter 3:8 (NLT) *Read Peter 3:8-12*

**Prayer:** Lord, your Word reminds us over and over that we should be of one mind, have love for each other and to be humble. Please give us the desire to please you in these ways. Forgive us when we fail. Thank you for your amazing grace and increase our love so that we give grace to others.

**Questions:** What does being of “one mind” mean? Who is the most tenderhearted person you know at UBC?

**DAY 7:** <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Become mature, be encouraged, be of the same mind, be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11 (CSB)  
*Read 2 Corinthians 13:11-14*

**Prayer:** Lord God Almighty! Let me rejoice in you! I can do nothing without you! All of your commands are perfect. Please give me strength to follow them in ways I have not even considered before. Thank you for revealing your Word to me this week as I work to be more mature, of the same mind, at peace with and loving toward others, as you so lavishly pour your love on me.

**Questions:** How can I rejoice in the Lord today? Is there a quality God revealed to me this week that I need to work on? In what areas have I felt God’s strength and love this week?

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### **Week 3** Wisdom and Discernment

**Week 3 Overview** - Solomon asked God for wisdom and discernment over all the other things for which he could have asked. It greatly pleased God. (1 Kings 3:5-15) This week, we will focus on what God's Word says about wisdom (the application of knowledge) and discernment (the decision making process in which an individual obtains spiritual direction and understanding).



**DAY 1:** <sup>10</sup> Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.

All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Praise him forever! Psalm 111:10 (NLT) *Read Psalm 111*

**Prayer:** Gracious Father, you are awesome in power! I come to your throne in reverence seeking strength to obey your commandments. As I read your Word this week, open my heart to hear your commands so that I may grow in your wisdom.

**Question:** What does it mean to have “fear of the Lord?” When I think of the word “wisdom” do I think of God’s true wisdom or man’s wisdom?

**DAY 2:** <sup>2</sup> I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ.<sup>3</sup> In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3 (CSB) *Read Colossians 1:24-29; 2:1-3*

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for being our only true source of wisdom and knowledge. I ask that you give me a heart of love for my UBC family so that together we can grow in our knowledge of you and what you desire for us. Please give me the desire to dig deep in your Word this week, so that I may grow in wisdom and discernment.

**Questions:** It’s one thing to know Christ is our only source of true wisdom and knowledge, and it’s another to commit to studying his Word to understand what that really means. How am I doing with being in his Word daily?

**DAY 3:** <sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24 (ESV) *Read Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for your message in the Sermon on the Mount to instruct us how to live our lives to be more like you and that you are our true foundation. I am not always obedient to you. But your words give me insight to your wisdom, please show me where I am disobedient so that I may grow in obedience and gain wisdom.

**Questions:** In what ways have I failed to be obedient to Jesus’ words lately? Do I completely trust that he is the rock on which all wisdom is built?

**DAY 4:** <sup>5</sup> Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. James 1:5 (CSB) *Read James 1:1-18*

**Prayer:** Father, you are so generous to answer our prayers when we come to you in faith without doubt. As your servants, we pray you guide us to make wise decisions in difficult circumstances according to your will, so we will have an attitude of joyful anticipation during this time of transition.

**Question:** How will seeking spiritual wisdom and discernment during this transition lead to an attitude of joy?

**DAY 5:** <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding; don't forget or turn away from the words of my mouth.  
<sup>6</sup> Don't abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you; love her, and she will guard you.  
<sup>7</sup> Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom.  
 And whatever else you get, get understanding.  
 Proverbs 4:5-7 (HCSB) *Read Proverbs 4:1-9*

**Prayer:** Thank you, Lord, for the wisdom that we read throughout the book of Proverbs. You give us the commands to “get wisdom” and “get understanding” and you encourage us to stay steadfast. Give us endurance in seeking wisdom and discernment because your wisdom, not man's, is supreme.

**Questions:** What does it mean that wisdom will watch over you? Do I truly love God's wisdom? How is it sometimes hard to love it?

**DAY 6:** <sup>17-18</sup> Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:17-18 (MSG) *Read James 3:13-18*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I want “real wisdom” – your wisdom. Help me get along with others and to be gentle, reasonable, merciful, consistently loving, and not deceptive. I want to do the hard work of cultivating peace within my family of believers. Please give me the desire and show me how I can treat my brothers and sisters in Christ with dignity and honor.

**Questions:** How does getting along with others point back to wisdom? How do I protect and encourage the growth of peace?

**DAY 7:** <sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:9-11 (NLT) *Read Philippians 1:1-11*

**Prayer:** Father, please give me a heart of love every day and on those days when it's hard, please point me back to your Word. It is only being in your Word and being open to your love that I can grow in wisdom and discernment. Thank you for giving us the perfect example of love through the perfect sacrifice of your Son for us. May you receive all honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Question:** How can I keep growing in wisdom and discernment?



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### **Week 4** Perseverance and Endurance

**Week 4 Overview** - “Running the race” is a metaphor used in scripture for the Christian’s journey in this life into the next. How can we run in a way that enhances our relationship with God and encourages our fellow brothers and sisters? Running with perseverance, courage, character, guided by the Holy Spirit with praise on our lips, while focusing on Jesus will help us achieve the goal, which is eternity with Him. During this time of transition the way in which we choose to run can make the journey sweeter and one that enriches our lives as a body of believers.

**DAY 1:** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) *Read Hebrews 12:1-2*

**Prayer:** Father God, I do not want to give up running the race while we wait to receive the one you have chosen for our new senior pastor. Would you reveal to me the sin to me that keeps me from following you with a whole heart? I praise you for those who have run the race at UBC before me and are cheering us on to remain faithful and to complete the race. I pray that I continue to trust you in this process and that you are glorified in it.

**Questions:** Is there something that is keeping you from running the race that God has set out for you to run? Will you ask God to remove that weight from your life? While we wait for our new senior pastor is there someone you can encourage at UBC that you know needs your encouragement?

**DAY 2:** ...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) *Read Hebrews 12:1-2*

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for giving me such a beautiful example of endurance and obedience in the most difficult of circumstances. I pray that you will instill in me the desire to be obedient and to continue to run the race with endurance while I wait. Help me to look to you alone for the faith I need to trust that your purpose and plan for UBC will be worked out.

**Questions:** Are you struggling with the wait for our new pastor? Will you give your struggle to the One who can replace it with joy?

**DAY 3:** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (ESV) *Read Joshua 1:1-9*

**Prayer:** God I acknowledge that you have already gone before us in this process. You have told us to be strong and courageous. I pray that you confirm that in my heart and that not only will I trust fully in your plan but I will be an encouragement to my fellow church members. Please keep me focused on you and you alone instead of negative thoughts or doubts.

**Questions:** How can you be strong and courageous during this time of waiting? What negative thoughts or emotions do you need to give to God?

**DAY 4:** We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5:3-5 (NLT) *Read Romans 5:1-5*

**Prayer:** Father in heaven, I praise you for your promise of using times of waiting for my good. I thank you for this body of believers that you have called to worship and serve at UBC. I pray that all of us will see how you are developing endurance, strength of character and hope in all of us as a body. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I pray for His peace and His love to overflow in my heart.

**Questions:** How can you rejoice when things around you are difficult? How does the hope you have in the love that God has for you change your perspective for today? In what ways could you share that with someone else who is struggling?

**DAY 5:** So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves...But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:16, 22, 23 (NLT) *Read Galatians 5:16-26*

**Prayer:** Jesus, I want the Holy Spirit to guide my life. I desire to be loving, joyful, at peace, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and to show self-control. I admit I can't do any of these without your Holy Spirit doing it in me. Help me to give up control so that He can have full control of my heart, mind and soul. I pray that others see you in me.

**Questions:** In what areas of your life do you need to give up control so that you can run the race unencumbered? In which of these areas is God already working in you? Will you give up control?

**DAY 6:** Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness! Psalm 150:1-2 (NLT) *Read Psalm 150*

**Prayer:** Father God, while I wait I will praise you! You are worthy of my praise and there is no one like you. Fill my heart with gratitude for all that you have done for me and for our church. I am amazed at your power and your goodness. I know that every good gift comes from you and that without you I am lost. Would you guide my thoughts today and bring to mind all of the many blessings you have given me? And help me to live a life of gratitude.

**Questions:**

**DAY 7:** ...but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,  
<sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) *Read Philippians 3:12-14*

**Prayer:** Jesus I want to focus on you. Help me to forget the past and instead focus on what you have already planned for me and for UBC. Keep my eyes on you when I am tempted to look elsewhere for love, or peace or anything else that keeps me from soaking up all that you want to impart to me. I love you Jesus and I am so grateful that you love me.

**Questions:** Is there something in your past you need to let go of? Name it and give it to Jesus. Will you continue to press on?