



# 2026

# PRAYER GUIDE



WEEKLY PRAYERS FOR FORMING COMPASSIONATE HEARTS

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July-September

# "Prayers are tools not for doing or getting, but for being and becoming."

- Eugene Peterson

At Christian Heritage, prayer is a vital part of our ministry to children and families. Because of that, we want to invite you into a deeper partnership with us through prayer in the new year.

We have created this weekly prayer guide for 2026 to support that shared commitment. Each week includes a short Scripture passage followed by a suggested prayer. You can read the passage and pray the prayer once a week or daily. It's completely up to you. And you don't have to pray these exact words—they are simply offered as a prompt to help orient your heart as you come before the Lord.

These prayers focus less on praying for the families we serve (though we certainly do that at times), and more on aligning our hearts with God's nature, character, and work in the world. Our goal in these prayers—as in all our prayers—is not mainly to get things done, but to become the kind of people God desires for us to be.

We want to become more compassionate, more mindful of trauma, and more responsive to the God who lives among and identifies with the vulnerable.

As you pray, we invite you to lift up both the children and families Christian Heritage serves and your own life before God. We believe that as we learn to abide in Christ, walk with him through suffering and restoration, and attend to his presence, our prayers become a means through which God brings healing, wisdom, and hope—to others and to us.

This guide will be released in four parts, one for each quarter of the year. This guide is for July-September 2026.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer. We are grateful for you, and we trust that the Lord will use these shared rhythms to deepen our dependence on him and our love for those he has entrusted to our care.

July

# renewal & growth

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renewal & growth

# June 28-July 4

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 1:1-6



## **PRAY**

O God of all growth, we confess our tendency to look to company and counsel that is opposed to you. But oh, how we want to grow and not wither! May our delight be in you and all that you are for us. Refresh us with your life-giving word not only for the sake of our own souls, but also for the sake of those those who are vulnerable and long for true prosperity yet find it outside of their reach. Remind us today that our flourishing is connected with theirs, so may your rivers of living water flow through us to them. Amen.

renewal & growth

# July 5-11

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 27:1-5



## **PRAY**

O Lord who is our light and salvation, when we are far from you, the world is a scary place. Like a fearful child searching for their parent's face, we want to see you to know everything will be okay. Sometimes it feels impossible to find you. Perhaps for the families we support, your presence may even seem to be a fairytale. Show them and us your face and strength, Lord—through your Son who is your spitting image. And as we gaze upon Jesus, comfort our hearts and remind us that we are safe at home with you. Amen.

renewal & growth

# July 12-18

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 103:1-5



## **PRAY**

O Lord our Provider, the one who restores and renews all of creation and us, grant us grateful hearts for all that you have done for us: you forgive, you heal, you redeem, you satisfy. And you accomplish all of this through your Son Jesus. May we see these gifts not as ends in themselves, but as means to be connected to you through Him. May the families we support taste your good gifts through the imperfect love and care we provide. Renew us and them this day, for your sake, Lord. Amen.

renewal & growth

# July 19-25

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## SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 73:23-28



## PRAY

O God who is the Strength of our hearts, we confess that when life is hard for us and easy for others—especially those opposed to your way—we can become brutish and cynical. We admit we wonder, “Is this worth it?” Grant us to remember that it is not an “it” we pursue, but “you.” What in the world matters but you? What in the world can satisfy more than you? What in the world is worth living and dying more than you? Nothing. Everything we have and are may fail, but you are portion, our supply, our everything. Amen.

renewal & growth

# July 26-August 1

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 63:1-5



## **PRAY**

O thirst-quenching God, who awakens us each day with your glorious and gracious presence, we ask that you would satisfy us today—not with what you can do for us, but with who you are for us. Your love is better than life. Do we really believe that? We wonder sometimes. We want ease, comfort, fancy gadgets, sufficient space, and long weekends. But in our heart of hearts, we acknowledge what we really long for and need is you. Just you, Jesus. Satisfy us with yourself, Lord. Amen.

**August**

**wisdom &  
humility**

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wisdom & humility

# August 2-8

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Proverbs 1:7



## **PRAY**

O God of Wisdom, we admit it's really easy to become foolish. We admit wisdom appears to be so far from us. But your word tells us that knowing you is where it starts. Keep us connected to you through your Son Jesus, who is wisdom in the flesh. May the families we are honored to serve come to know you and find wisdom—for their life, relationships, education, work, finances, future—that they may live lives that reflect your calling and way. Amen.

wisdom & humility

# August 9-15

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## SCRIPTURE

Read James 1:2-8



## PRAY

O generous God, we confess we lack wisdom. Every one of us. In trials and temptations and testing we recognize how unwise we can be. But like a good parent, you encourage us to come to you when we have a need. You want us to ask for wisdom to navigate this scary, fallen world. So we ask: give us wisdom, Lord. And give us the faith to ask boldly confidently, and with the assurance your answer will always be "YES!" because you love to give generously. We receive your wisdom, with grateful hearts. Amen.

wisdom & humility

# August 16-22

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Philippians 2:1-11



## **PRAY**

Lord Almighty, who surrendered your might and status for our sake, grant us true humility in our relationships with each other. Jesus, give us the very mindset you had: not exploiting our power for our own advantage, but giving it up to exalt others. We admit this way is narrow and hard, Lord. But it's the way that leads to life. So we need your grace to find it. And may our pursuit of this be a source of life and hope and joy for every child and parent we serve. Amen.

wisdom and humility

# August 23-29

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## SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



## PRAY

O crucified and risen Lord, your gospel sounds foolish and powerless to a world that values all the wrong things. Sometimes, power and prestige sounds attractive. Give us the grace to reject that and choose your way of humility and wisdom. You lived it. And still today, you choose what the world overlooks and despises so that no one can have room to boast about how great or worthy they are. Give us a humble posture that produces true wisdom, so we might reflect you in all we think, say, and do. Amen.

September

# relationship & community

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# August 30-September 5

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read John 17:20-26



## **PRAY**

O God of Unity, we admit there is a staggering lack of unity among your people. There are cracks and fissures and chasms that seem too much to overcome. If this grieves us, we can't imagine how much it grieves your heart. Yet we also know it's not too much for you to overcome. We pray as you did, Jesus, that we may be one, just as you are one—Father, Son, Spirit. Strip us of all that keeps your Church from its true identity and calling. We want your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, and we need your powerful grace to see it. Amen.

# September 6-12

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## SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10



## PRAY

O God who called us out of darkness and into your wonderful light, we belong to you. Because we belong to you, we inherit your royalty. Somedays, though, we admit, we don't feel so kingly or queenly. We feel quite ordinary and unworthy of such a lofty status. Grant that we may have a renewed sense of our calling as your people. We receive your mercy through Jesus, and we ask that you would make us ready and willing dispensers of that same mercy to those lost in the darkness and in need of you. Amen.

# September 13-19

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## SCRIPTURE

Read 1 John 3:16-18



## PRAY

O Lord of Love, you were not content to just tell us you loved us but showed us through giving up your life. Give us the power, the desire, the capacity to love with actions, not mere words. We want to care for the hurting and vulnerable in our midst with sincerity, not sentimentality. Jesus, you laid your life down for us. We may not have to give up our lives but grant us to give up our possessions, time, energy, money, and status for the benefit of others. Amen.

# September 20-26

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## SCRIPTURE

Read Galatians 5:13-25



## PRAY

O Spirit of Freedom, who calls us out of slavery and into relationship with you, you also call us into relationship with others who know you. We confess being in your family is messy and sometimes we're better at biting and devouring than loving. Fill us, O God, with your Spirit, to make us people known for love and good deeds, and so those in our care might get a taste of the freedom and joy only found in you. Amen.

# September 27-October 3

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## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Colossians 3:1-14



## **PRAY**

O Christ who is our Life, we rejoice that we have already been raised to new life in you. While we wait for final resurrection, we fight and struggle to put to death what you have already defeated. Love and peace and unity seem elusive some days—even with those we love. But by your gracious power, they are within reach. Renew us and fill us afresh with your Spirit so we can be the kind of people you call us to be. And may our lives showcase your beauty and wonder to the people we minister to each day. Amen.

