

# First Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

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## Prayer and Devotion Lead Our Way



Worship in newly framed sanctuary, 1970



**KINGDOM  
BUILDERS**



## **Kingdom Builders Prayer Guide**

**Thank you for entering this season of prayer. As we journey through the next three years, we will grow as a faith community as we pray together focused on building the Kingdom here in our midst. Below are devotions and prayers to frame your intentional prayer.**

### **Matthew 6:9-15**

Key verse: *<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus' prayer focuses us on God's Kingdom. He not only prays for it, but his ministry intentionally works to build the Kingdom here on earth.

One important prayer a believer should always pray is, "Lord, let me build Thy kingdom, and not my kingdom!" Many believers are very busy, but they are busy building their own kingdoms instead of God's kingdom. How are you building God's Kingdom?

Close your time by praying Matthew 6:10 through 7 times.

### **Luke 2:41-52**

Key verse: *<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.*

When Jesus was a boy, he entered the Temple with his family. He did not leave with them. Instead, he stayed behind and asked questions of the Temple leaders. Scripture tells us that "Jesus increased in wisdom." Kingdom Building requires us to learn from God and Jesus. What we learn will be the tools we use to build.

Recall a time when you asked questions in the faith community to grow with God's knowledge and wisdom.

O God, conform me to the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ. Shape my mind. Create in me a desire to seek your wisdom and knowledge. I know that Jesus was one with you, that he always made time for prayer. I know that he knew the Scriptures and was always proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. God, I desire to be like Jesus. Form me and mold me, so that the world will see Jesus in me. Amen.



## **Matthew 22:1-14**

Key verse: *“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.”*

Jesus tells, we learn that the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding party to which all people have been invited. This party is not a club that has a closed or select membership. It is a party that is welcoming, inviting and open.

Who are you inviting to come into the faith community? Who are you welcoming into the Kingdom we are building together? Make a list of people to invite.

Almighty God, your way of working in our world is often beyond our ability to comprehend. You continually surprise us by loving the unlovable, choosing the outcast and forgiving the most egregious sinner among us. Your kingdom is a place where the first are last, the youngest gets picked ahead of the eldest and children are held up as role models. You specialize in the impossible – impossible people, impossible tasks, impossible situations. Continue to be at work within me. Transform me. Equip me and use me to extend invitations to all those you call children. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **Matthew 24:36-44**

Key verse: <sup>36</sup>*“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father*

We try to be ready for anything. We have first-aid kits, smoke alarms, generators, tool kits, flashlights and more. But we can’t be ready for everything. Sometimes we face an emergency for which we are not prepared. Jesus says we should be ready for his return. Be ready for the coming Kingdom. To do that we are to be living lives that build up the Kingdom here on earth.

Holy God, prepare me to be sent into the world. Keep me awake. Let me encounter Jesus in unexpected moments, with surprises of grace. Help me keep watch for those moments and be ready to respond in faith and hope. In his holy name, Amen.



### **Matthew 13:31-33**

Key verses: <sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

These two parables tell us that the Kingdom of heaven will start very small. With just a little human effort, the Kingdom will bring about an abundance of blessings to all those around. Financial people would say this is a good return on investment. It's something you want to be a part of as soon as possible.

What are you investing into the Kingdom? What are you planting? What is God's yeast in your life?

Gracious God, you have indeed blessed me with so much. I accept all you have given as the seeds of faith and the yeast of hope. Use what I give to build up your Kingdom. Allow your Holy Spirit to work through them and increase the size of our faith community. In Christ's name, Amen.

### **Luke 6:20-21**

Key verses: <sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

Jesus promises that blessings will come to those who are among the least, the last, and the lost. These blessings come through those who embody Jesus. Blessings come through Jesus' disciples today who are engaged in building the Kingdom here and now. The work of Kingdom building is reaching out to the poor, hungry, grieving, etc.

How are God's blessings flowing through you to the least, the last, the lost?

Lord, help me to continue to grow in the likeness of Christ by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. Only by continued growth in him can I be released for mission to the lost, the poor, the broken. Make me an instrument extending the ministry of Jesus and his kingdom for your good pleasure. In Jesus name, Amen.

