

## PREPARE YE THE WAY

### PRAYERS TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

#### *Prayers for Christ's Church*

Thank You Lord that we kneel before You from Whom Your whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. We pray that out of Your glorious riches you may strengthen every member of the Church and specifically St. Andrew's with power through Your Holy Spirit in our inner being so Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

And I pray that all of these people being rooted and grounded in love, may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge that every member of the Church may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

We thank You Lord that You who are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to Your power that is at work within us, to You be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.  
Amen in the name of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:14-20)

*Adapted from The Sword of the Spirit: the Word of God by Joy Lamb*

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#### *Prayers for St. Andrew's*

Heavenly Father, Raise up a people here at St. Andrews to worship you. A people who will stand in awe before the splendor of Your holiness. Use our praise to defeat the enemy. May we be true worshipers who worship in spirit and in truth. Let us glory only in You, Jesus. Amen.  
(2 Chron. 20:21-22; Jn. 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3).

Father in heaven, thank you for those who have chosen to serve our youth and children. Bless them as they set examples in speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Cause them to be strong, alive-in-the-Word overcomers. Give them discernment to deal with difficult situations (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Jn. 2:14; Prov. 7:7,2).

Thank You for every behind-the-scenes worker who is devoted to service here at St. Andrews. Bless them for their obedience and generosity—may You receive praise! Reward them for serving You humbly and wholeheartedly rather than seeking to be noticed (1 Cor. 16:15-16; 2 Cor. 9:12-13; Eph. 6:7).

Father, let the Gospel be presented to the lost with power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction, not only through our words, but also through our lives. Increase our number through new converts into your Kingdom. Teach us to make the most of every opportunity as we spread everywhere the fragrance of Christ (Acts 2:47; 1 Thess. 1:5; Col. 4:5; 2 Cor. 2:15).

Lord, Let this be a place where the hurting come to know You as El Roi, the God who sees them. Bind up the brokenhearted. Set the captives free. Replace mourning with Your oil of gladness. Comfort them so they will have a ministry of comfort to others (Gen. 16:13; Is. 61:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).

Holy Spirit, lead us to level ground. Show us ways we grieve, quench, or resist You. We live by You; help us keep in step with You. Reign in us so we experience Your freedom (Ps. 143:10; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; Acts 7:51; Gal. 5:25; 2 Cor.3:17).

Lord, We eagerly desire the spiritual gifts You've given for our common good. Help us understand the various gifts and how they work in our lives and in this body of St. Andrews. May we use what we've received to serve others, administering grace in love and with renewed passion (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1; 1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:6).

Lord, May we sow generously into St. Andrews without reluctance or compulsion. Make grace abound so we have the finances we need to do every good work you've assigned us. Make us rich in ways that result in generosity so You will be praised. Remind us that sharing with others is a pleasing sacrifice to You. Keep us outwardly focused so we don't become self-absorbed. Enable us to extend mercy to people in every kind of need (Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:4; Jude 22-23; 2 Cor. 9:6-11).

Father, Make St. Andrews a house of prayer! We want to pray first, always, and continually with thanks. May each of us recognize that this is Your desire for all, not just a few. Transform us into righteous men and women whose prayers are powerful and effective (Mk. 11:17; 1 Thess. 5:17-18; Ps. 32:6; Jas. 5:16).

Oh God, Revive us so we burn hot for You! Give us singleness of heart and action that we may always fear You and follow Your precepts. Open our minds to Your Word and set our hearts ablaze within us (Rev. 3:14-16; Jer. 32:39; Ps. 111:10; Lk. 24:32,45).

*Adapted from A Month of Prayers for Your Church by Sandra Higley*

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### ***Prayers for all our Priests, Deaconesses & Leaders***

Lord, I pray for discernment in exposing any schemes of the enemy against my pastors, deaconesses and leaders. Show our congregation how to pray against all powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of darkness in heavenly realms. And, Lord, protect us as we wage warfare on behalf of those who shepherd us (Eph. 6:11-12).

Lord, let our pastors, deaconesses and leaders have discerning minds to prioritize the precious minutes in the day. Let them discern what is most important and be guarded against the tyranny of the urgent (2 Cor. 11:14, 1 Jn. 4:1).

Jesus, keep my pastors, deaconesses and leaders holy in every way (1 Pet. 1:16). Give them comrades to help protect them, and to share with in personal holiness (Jas. 4:7). As my pastors, deaconesses and leaders draw near to You, draw near to them (Jas. 4:8).

In Jesus' name I bind the fear of failure and the fear of humankind (Jn. 14:1). Let my pastors, deaconesses and leaders have confidence which will not be eroded by the daily resistance to the Gospel or their vision. Allow my pastors, deaconesses and leaders to fear God more than people. Father, heal their hearts of any grief caused by ministry. Clothe them with a garment of praise instead of a spirit of depression. I call them oaks of righteousness, plantings of the Lord to display Your splendor (Is. 61:3).

Lord, I stand against the enemies of my pastors, deaconesses and leaders prayer life: "busyness" (Acts 6:2-4), compulsions, compromise (Acts 5), unnecessary phone calls, chronic counselees, fatigue, sleepiness (Mt. 26:41),

appetites, television, late meetings, over-commitments, and doubt. Let nothing hinder their time with You. Let them rise up to seek You (Mk. 1:35), pray with other pastors (Acts 1:14), and pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). Give them the time, the desire, and the place to pray (Acts 16:16).

Lord, as You have promised, grant my pastors, deaconesses and leaders lasting fruit (Mal. 3:11, Jn. 15:16). Let their converts become disciples who in turn disciple. Bless them with disciples who grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Lord, keep my pastors, deaconesses and leaders in the fear of God. Let them not fear people (Prov. 19:23). Give them boldness to confront sin and church controllers. Honor their stand for You. Come to their rescue. I claim Psalm 35 for my pastors, deaconesses and leaders. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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### ***Prayers Specific for Canon Ron***

In Jesus' name I speak to church hurts, abuse, and ungrateful forces to move. I speak to stress and fatigue to be cast into the sea, and I believe every need, vision, and dream of Canon Ron's will be completed (Mk. 11:22-24, Phil. 4:19). Forgive those who have hurt Canon Ron and have spoken against him, and may he walk in forgiveness (Eph. 4:32-5:1). Guard his minds from futile thinking (Eph. 4:17) and a vain imagination. Let his every thought be taken captive to obey Christ (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

Lord, I lift up the hands of my pastor and his family. Preserve their family time. Cover their home. Let Your faithfulness meet their financial needs in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Lord, command Your angels to guard them as they travel and win the lost. You have said, "I will be with [them] in trouble, I will deliver [them] and honor [them]. With a long life, I will satisfy [them] and show [them] my salvation" (Ps. 91:15-16).

As Canon Ron preaches, let him proclaim Jesus Christ (Col. 1:28). Let my pastor's preaching be in the energy of the Holy Spirit. Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, anoint Canon Ron to preach, and bring apostolic results (Acts 2:37). As my pastor speaks the Word, let signs and wonders follow confirming it (Mk. 16:20). Let the sick be healed; let the oppressed be set free. Anoint Canon Ron with the truth (Mt. 16:17). Let people be cut to the heart and accept Jesus Christ.

*Adapted from Preyed On or Prayed For by Terry Teykl*