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For over a century, an old hymn has reminded the Church of who we are as Christians—the bride of Christ. Its third verse envisions the romance of our redemption:

Oh, I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved's mine.  
He brings a poor, vile sinner into His house of wine.  
I stand upon His merit, I own no other stand,  
Not even where glory dwelleth, in Emmanuel's land.

The Church is a perfect, spotless bride, destined for glory. The “glory” of course, all comes from Christ. Fallen sinners on whom God has shed His grace, we are unlovely yet loved. “Dead in our trespasses and sins,” by nature we reject God and all He stands for, until He makes us new. Our Beloved gets all the credit for who we are.

During the weeks before Easter, we observe Lent. It's easy to think of Lent as a time to give up things we enjoy, almost as if enjoyment is somehow tainted. Lent is more a time of giving ourselves to Christ and becoming more His. It involves a close look at who we really are without Him. It means seeing the sin we still cling to, recognizing all He did to deliver us from it, then letting it go, so we can cling closer to the Savior.

*The bride's amazement turned to awe as she considered how much her transformation cost her groom. He had entered her world at great personal risk. It wasn't a chance encounter. He came seeking her. Searching the infested back streets, he suffered abuse, even wounds, from their seedy inhabitants, until he found her.*

*He loved her so much when she was so awful! The contrast between his unrelenting love and her absolute unloveliness filled her with joy and love beyond expression. Inwardly, she gave herself to him completely and prepared to walk down the aisle.*

In verse four, the old hymn captures a moment yet to be in the romance of our redemption—the moment we go to be with our Beloved forever.

The bride eyes not her garment, but her dear bridegroom's face.  
I will not gaze at glory, but on my Prince of Grace.  
Not at the crown he giveth but on His pierced hand.  
The Lamb is all the glory in Emmanuel's land.

Remember who you are without Christ. Let Him guide you to those sins that need attention and show you what you need to release, so you can be free to cling to Him.

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### Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Confess Jesus Christ as Lord, our sinful tendency to stray from His will, and the salvation found in Christ alone.
- **Local Outreach:** Ask God to bring spiritual growth to Gaborone Chapel, a new church plant in the capital of Botswana, Africa.
- **Missions:** Rick & Brenda Eisemann: Evangelizing in Ethiopia

### Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at [prayer@northpointcorona.org](mailto:prayer@northpointcorona.org)
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service

Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.

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# prayer *life!*

## Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year ONE) March 2018

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*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.* –Song of Solomon 6:3

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### The Romance of Redemption

*The bride sat gazing in the mirror, amazed. “This is how he sees me.” She looked at the reflection of a young woman in the bloom of adult beauty. Wavy locks cascading down her shoulders framed a frank, intelligent brow. Clear, radiant eyes peered out, inviting cheerful interaction. The skin on her face, shoulders and arms was creamy smooth, without blemish. Her beauty was a gift to others. It added to the world's beauty, without calling attention to her—which made her all the more beautiful. How different from before.*

*The image in the mirror, she knew, had been transformed. She needed no “before” photographs to see the difference. He had found her in an alley, abandoned by her “friends.” Brown, purple, and blue tracks in her left arm encircled the red and bleeding one that led to her deadly stupor. She had just enough strength to hit him and lash out with a burst of profanity. She called for her friends who had left her to die. She wanted their company, not his.*

*How she hated respectable people, with their clean clothes and orderly lives, who looked down on the way she earned the money to support her habit. Good friends were those who didn't condemn. Who understood that the only thing that mattered was a good time and a good high. Everything else took too much effort and gave no thrill. Her old friends understood.*

*But they didn't care. They had left her to die in the alley, afraid of the body. Afraid to be caught with a corpse. Of course they didn't realize that, like her, they were just corpses in waiting. Every thrill took them one step closer to death. Still, the thrill held them as slaves. They liked the way they were. They didn't want to change. She didn't want to change.*

*He had changed her. He resuscitated her back to life, then lifting her drooping, wilting, body from the asphalt, he took her out of that place, to his own home. He nursed her to health, fed her real food and healthy drink. Got her past the withdrawals to the solid ground of health and vitality. Now they took walks together in the afternoons and had conversations in the evenings. Her days were filled with visits from smiling friends who fed on life, which seemed to flow into her.*

*The beauty she saw in the mirror—he had put it there. She was new. He loved her for who he had made her. She would never forget who she had been and who was responsible for who she now was.*

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# Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year ONE)

March 2018

<b>Sunday:</b> Church & Ministry	<b>Monday:</b> Home & Family	<b>Tuesday:</b> School or Job	<b>Wednesday:</b> Neighbors & Community	<b>Thursday:</b> Nation	<b>Friday:</b> World & Kingdom	<b>Saturday:</b> Praise for God's Blessings
<p><i>If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.</i> —Psalm 66:18-19</p>				<p><b>1) Read:</b> Matthew 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival of the Church in America, so we shine the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us who need Him.</p>	<p><b>2) Read:</b> Matthew 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Boldness, protection, &amp; strength for Christians in areas troubled by violence and unrest.</p>	<p><b>3) Read:</b> Matthew 12 <i>Praise the Lord ...</i> For the freedom and plenty we still enjoy in America.</p>
<p><b>4) Read:</b> Matthew 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Mike Russell (Lay Elder) to have wisdom for a Godly life and to lead Northpoint to raise up disciples who make disciples of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>5) Read:</b> Matthew 14 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to lead future generations of your family to Himself. May God establish a dynasty of faith that seeks His will.</p>	<p><b>6) Read:</b> Matthew 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> The movement of God's Spirit among your school or employer. Ask God to use you for His purposes.</p>	<p><b>7) Read:</b> Matthew 16 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to be known &amp; exalted in our local schools, the district, &amp; school board. Ask God to accomplish His will in their plans and dealings.</p>	<p><b>8) Read:</b> Matthew 17 <i>Confess ...</i> Christ as the true Lord and Leader of this great country, so His truth shines through His people to the ends of the earth.</p>	<p><b>9) Read:</b> Matthew 18 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to lift up Jesus Christ and draw all men to Himself throughout all the world, from East to West and North to South.</p>	<p><b>10) Read:</b> Matthew 19 <i>Rejoice ...</i> That God created music and every form of beauty (Psalm 104).</p>
<p><b>11) Read:</b> Matthew 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> Terilyn Brown (Children's Ministry Director). Seek God's power for ministry &amp; protection from all harm for Terilyn &amp; her family.</p>	<p><b>12) Read:</b> Matthew 21 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your family and close friends who do not know Christ: May God save them from their sins and lead them in His will.</p>	<p><b>13) Read:</b> Matthew 22 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to reveal Himself through you to your fellow workers. Ask God's help you love Him with all your heart, soul, &amp; strength, &amp; your neighbor as yourself.</p>	<p><b>14) Read:</b> Matthew 23 <i>Pray for ...</i> The safety, integrity, and effectiveness of the local police, sheriff and fire departments.</p>	<p><b>15) Read:</b> Matthew 24 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to turn America's heart to honor Him and our wills to obey His Word.</p>	<p><b>16) Read:</b> Matthew 25 <i>Pray for ...</i> Spiritual transformation and physical healing for those suffering in the AIDS epidemics in Africa and across the globe.</p>	<p><b>17) Read:</b> Matthew 26 <i>List ten things ...</i> That you enjoy. Tell the Giver how much you appreciate Him, as well as the gifts He gives.</p>
<p><b>18) Read:</b> Matthew 27 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival at Northpoint to humble ourselves before the Lord and surrender our wills, plans, and desires to Him.</p>	<p><b>19) Read:</b> Matthew 28 <i>Pray for ...</i> "I love You, O LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:1). Admit your inclination to rely on yourself rather than God. Rejoice in His unfailing provision.</p>	<p><b>20) Read:</b> Exodus 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> The needs and concerns of others that you are aware of: May God meet their needs and use those needs to draw them to Himself.</p>	<p><b>21) Read:</b> Exodus 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Corona Life Services: May God redeem the lives of unwed mothers and their children.</p>	<p><b>22) Read:</b> Exodus 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Repentance &amp; revival in the American Church. Implore God to send His Holy Spirit to renew our love for Christ &amp; zeal to serve Him.</p>	<p><b>23) Read:</b> Exodus 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> God's dear presence with those who follow Christ in suffering. May God assure them of the joy set before all who endure to the end.</p>	<p><b>24) Read:</b> Exodus 5 <i>Give praise ...</i> For the certain hope of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ.</p>
<p><b>25) Read:</b> Exodus 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Robert Brown: Ministry Support, Communications. Ask God to use him to keep people informed of opportunities to worship, learn, and serve.</p>	<p><b>26) Read:</b> Exodus 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Family members and loved ones who do not know Christ: May God give life to their souls and enable them to receive Christ as Savior and honor Him as Lord.</p>	<p><b>27) Read:</b> Exodus 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> The person with whom you work most closely. Pray for their salvation from sin, and that they will know the love of God in Christ Jesus.</p>	<p><b>28) Read:</b> Exodus 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> Godly leaders in Corona, who will model integrity and excellence in our city. Pray for the free spread of the Gospel.</p>	<p><b>29) Read:</b> Exodus 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to raise up godly leaders in the legislative branch of our government, so our laws reflect His holy standards.</p>	<p><b>30) Read:</b> Exodus 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> The truth of Christ's death for sin to pierce hearts &amp; bring repentance, by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p><b>31) Read:</b> Exodus 12 <i>Give Thanks!</i> The Lord is King! He rules the world with perfect justice, everlasting love, and infinite wisdom to a glorious future</p>