
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.

For forty days before Easter, is the season of 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 were 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.

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:** Hector and Karen Cedillo, International Church Planting

Need to pray with someone?

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

- By email at 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.



prayer *life!*

Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year ONE) March 2020

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

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—making the bride 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.

Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year ONE)

March 2020

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: School or Job	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
<p>1) Read: Matthew 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> The committee selecting new elders to lead our church. Pray for wisdom to ask good questions and guidance to the men God would have to lead our church.</p>	<p>2) Read: Matthew 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to lead future generations of your family to Himself. May God establish a dynasty of faith that seeks His will.</p>	<p>3) Read: Matthew 12 <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>4) Read: Matthew 13 <i>Pray ...</i> Corona Life Services: May God redeem the lives of abortion vulnerable mothers & their children. Pray for the banquet this Saturday.</p>	<p>5) Read: Matthew 14 <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>6) Read: Matthew 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to lift up Jesus Christ and draw all men to Himself throughout the world, from East to West and North to South.</p>	<p>7) Read: Matthew 16 <i>Rejoice ...</i> That God created music and every form of beauty (Psalm 104).</p>
<p>8) Read: Matthew 17 <i>Pray for ...</i> Terilyn Brown (Children's Ministry Director). Seek God's power for ministry & protection from all harm for Terilyn & her family.</p>	<p>9) Read: Matthew 18 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your family and close friends who do not know Christ, that God will save them from their sins and lead them in His will.</p>	<p>10) Read: Matthew 19 <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, & strength, & your neighbor as yourself.</p>	<p>11) Read: Matthew 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> The safety, integrity, and effectiveness of the local police, sheriff and fire departments.</p>	<p>12) Read: Matthew 21 <i>Pray for ...</i> Repentance & revival in the American Church. Implore God to send His Holy Spirit to renew our love for Christ & zeal to serve Him.</p>	<p>13) Read: Matthew 22 <i>Pray for ...</i> Spiritual transformation and physical healing for those suffering in the AIDS epidemics in Africa and across the globe.</p>	<p>14) Read: Matthew 23 <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>15) Read: Matthew 24 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival at Northpoint to humble ourselves before the Lord and surrender our wills, plans, and desires to Him.</p>	<p>16) Read: Matthew 25 <i>Pray ...</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>17) Read: Matthew 26 <i>Pray for ...</i> The needs and concerns of others that you are aware of. Ask God to meet their needs & use those needs to draw them to Himself.</p>	<p>18) Read: Matthew 27 <i>Pray for ...</i> <i>Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! —Psalm 139:23-24</i></p>	<p>19) Read: Matthew 26 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to turn America's heart to honor Him and our wills to obey His Word.</p>	<p>20) Read: Exodus 1 <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>21) Read: Exodus 2 <i>Give praise ...</i> For the certain hope of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ.</p>
<p>22) Read: Exodus 3 <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>23) Read: Exodus 4 <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>24) Read: Exodus 5 <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>25) Read: Exodus 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to raise up leaders in Corona, who will model integrity and excellence in our city. Pray for the free spread of the Gospel.</p>	<p>26) Read: Exodus 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to raise up godly leaders in both branches of the legislative branch of our government, so our laws reflect His holy standards.</p>	<p>27) Read: Exodus 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> The truth of Christ's death for sin to pierce hearts & bring repentance, by the power of the Holy Spirit through the work of His Church.</p>	<p>28) Read: Exodus 9 <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>
<p>29) Read: Exodus 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> Steve Dalgren, Worship Leader to lead us to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).</p>	<p>30) Read: Exodus 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to know and share the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge.</p>	<p>31) Read: Exodus 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your neighbors' needs and concerns that you are aware of. Ask God to help them with these concerns and reveal Himself to them.</p>	<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>			