
His life as a sacrifice for our sins. People don't sacrifice themselves for their enemies. Jesus did. He paid a price beyond imagination in order to buy back a world that belonged to Him by right. To make things the way they were meant to be.

Sickness and death were not meant to be. The God of life filled the world with life then gave up His life for that world. But He wasn't meant to stay dead. Jesus came back to life and conquered death, to make things right—like they ought to be. Easter celebrates the essence of our faith. The King of Creation purchased us from slavery to sin with His blood. Then He broke the chains of death to destroy the devil on his own turf. Jesus Christ is King by creation, King by purchase, and King by conquest. That's what we celebrate at Easter.

Palm fronds fanned the April breeze. A crowd gathered along the road, eyes wide with anticipation. People stood tiptoe trying to see a man riding humbly on the back of a donkey, without pretense or grandeur. The beast of burden stepped hesitantly across coats and articles of clothing, an impromptu red carpet in honor of Jesus. He was worthy of their cry: *Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*

And that praise goes on, from Jesus' resurrection and ascension, through the Church Age, up until now. Join the chorus of praise to your Creator, Redeemer, and King. He is worthy to have all people in all the earth sing His praise for all eternity. So start *now*. THIS is how things are meant to be.

Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Ask God to keep us informed by God's Word, empowered by God's Spirit, and dedicated to God's Son.
- **Local Outreach:** Corona Life Services
- **Missions:** Daniel and Linda Holmquist (EFCA Reach Global) in *Northeast India*

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 THREE) April 2020

Behold, your King is coming to you, gentle and mounted on a donkey, even a colt, the foal of a beast of burden. Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. —Matthew 21:5 & 9

How Things Were Meant to Be

Waves caressing the shore. The breeze brushing my face. The rocks of the jetty glistening in the sun and bristling with fishermen. With all of the week's work done, I was on vacation, so I was free to watch boats cruise by and listen to the children shriek with joy on the beach. We were celebrating my daughter's birthday, surrounded by family and friends. THAT's how things are meant to be! But that was then—Not now.

We have so much to praise God for! Our good God made a good world then created us to enjoy Him and the world. *"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. ... Know that the Lord Himself is God. It is He who made us, and not we ourselves"* (Psalm 100:1-3). There are moments, when we're so surrounded by His goodness we just have to rejoice. I wish it were always that way.

But it's Not always that way. Yes, we have seasons that remind us God's goodness and why He deserves our praise. Times like we're having now remind us that the world is broken, and God uses things like pandemics to jolt us into awareness. Try as we might to deny it, the world is precarious and life ends in death. It's God's grace that reminds us of that fact and nudges us—and sometimes pushes us—up against the ugly realities that sin brings. His grace is even in COVID 19.

Soon we'll be celebrating another staggering reality. Reasons only God understands, reasons hidden in the depths of His incomprehensible love, led Jesus—God incarnate—to give up

Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year THREE)

April 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><i>I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. –Galatians 2:20</i></p>			<p>1) Read: John 19 <i>Pray for ...</i> Northpoint Church to thrive and be an influence for Christ in Corona. Ask God to send His Spirit to empower our witness.</p>	<p>2) Read: John 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> Renewed desire in the Church in America for holiness, purity, righteousness, love & boldness in spreading the Gospel.</p>	<p>3) Read: John 21 <i>Pray for ...</i> Strength and protection for Christians in the Muslim world. Ask God to enable them to keep the faith. Pray for the salvation of their persecutors.</p>	<p>4) Read: Philippians 1-2 <i>Thank God ...</i> For His creation and provision, and for bringing you the good news of salvation. God has loved you with an everlasting love.</p>
<p>5) Read: Philippians 3-4 <i>Pray for ...</i> Michele Balga: Ministry Support, Administration. Pray for her to be the "face of Christ" to those she serves in ministry, revealing His truth, grace, and love to each person.</p>	<p>6) Read: Ezra 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your in-laws or families of your friends to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, & strength & their neighbor as themselves.</p>	<p>7) Read: Ezra 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to use you to reveal Himself to your friends and colleagues. Ask for opportunities and boldness for sharing.</p>	<p>8) Read: Ezra 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to be exalted in Home Gardens. May many people come to know and worship Him in that area of our city.</p>	<p>9) Read: Ezra 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to restore marriage in our land and lead us to reject laws and practices that undermine marriage and the family.</p>	<p>10) Read: Ezra 5 <i>Pray that ...</i> God will raise up a new generation of missionaries to lift up Jesus as Savior & Lord to the ends of the earth, so everyone will know He died on the cross for all sin.</p>	<p>11) Read: Ezra 6 <i>Give thanks!</i> Jesus Christ suffered death for us, so we can have life in Him. His time in the grave freed us from the penalty of death for our sins.</p>
<p>12) Read: 1 Ezra 7 <i>Christ is risen indeed!</i> Praise God! Glorify His name. He has conquered sin and death. <i>"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself</i> (John 12:32).</p>	<p>13) Read: Ezra 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to lead future generations of your family to Himself.</p>	<p>14) Read: Ezra 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> The colleague or friend you work most closely with or whom God has put on your heart. Ask God to meet their spiritual and personal needs.</p>	<p>15) Read: Ezra 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> The neighbors to your left and right. Ask God to use you in their lives.</p>	<p>16) Read: Colossians 1-2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Jesus, the Lamb of God to be exalted and embraced in our land, so we worship Him as revealed in Scripture, not as we imagine Him to be.</p>	<p>17) Read: Colossians 3-4 <i>Pray for ...</i> Spiritual transformation and physical healing for those suffering in the AIDS epidemics threatening many nations.</p>	<p>18) Read: Nehemiah 1 <i>Rejoice!</i> The tomb is empty. Jesus Christ is alive, and by God's grace, your name is written in the book of life.</p>
<p>19) Read: Nehemiah 2 God will continue to move among our leaders to make prayer a priority at Northpoint, so that our ministry is clearly driven by the wisdom & power of God and not man.</p>	<p>20) Read: Nehemiah 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christian character to develop in everyone in your home (Galatians 5:22-23)</p>	<p>21) Read: Nehemiah 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> The colleague at work you have the most difficulty with. May they see the love of Christ in you and hear of His love from you.</p>	<p>22) Read: Nehemiah 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to reveal His love to the families of our community, especially those who are broken and dysfunctional (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).</p>	<p>23) Read: Nehemiah 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to give His people faith & unity in prayer, <i>So that with one mind and one voice [we] may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i> Pray for revival & renewal.</p>	<p>24) Read: Nehemiah 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Protection for those undergoing persecution for their faith. Pray for strength to remain faithful. Pray for Christ-like love for their persecutors.</p>	<p>25) Read: Nehemiah 8 <i>Praise God!</i> The King of Creation came to be with us. Our rejection did not stop Him and death could not defeat Him. Jesus Christ is Lord!</p>
<p>26) Read: Nehemiah 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> <i>Corie Saunders, Administrator & Finance:</i> Ask God to use the management of His money to enhance the work of Christ & magnify His name.</p>	<p>27) Read: Nehemiah 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your spouse and children or your closest friends: Seek the Holy Spirit's filling for Christ-like character and bold witness.</p>	<p>28) Read: Nehemiah 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Leaders, coworkers and friends at work. Pray that they will know Christ & His love. Ask for opportunities to show it to them.</p>	<p>29) Read: Nehemiah 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our church so we can reach the lost of our community. Pray that our neighbors will be on our hearts.</p>	<p>30) Read: Nehemiah 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Godly influences in the businesses of America. May integrity and Christian truth dominate their motives, methods, and actions.</p>		