

# March 2024

## Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy - Monthly Intercession Guide



### March Theme:

As we walk toward the Cross with Jesus, we will focus on **Humility** and **Repentance** in this Lenten season, focusing on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and giving. Depending on your church tradition, your Lenten services may include Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. This is a somber time, and we want to ponder the Cross and deeply experience the cost Jesus paid for our rescue.

The month ends with Resurrection Sunday, the triumph of our King over his enemies, including death itself. This Good News shifts us to the theme of **Evangelism**, and there can be no better inspiration for that than St. Patrick, who we also celebrate this month.

**Our guide will be a bit different this month. We have a bit of history and fewer specific prayer prompts than normal. Please pray the Scriptures, led by the Spirit!**

**Prayer of approach:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Help us intercede by your Spirit. Amen.

**Tenebrae** is the Latin word meaning "darkness." This service, as practiced in most Protestant Churches, is an adaptation of medieval Roman Catholic practices for each of the days of Holy Week dating back to the ninth century. This service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. The story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel is divided into 16 readings.

After each segment of the story is read, a candle is extinguished. After the fifteenth reading, which confirms that Jesus had died on the cross, the last of the 15 lit candles is extinguished or taken away, and a loud sound is made to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the universe. The final story of the burial is read in near darkness. Worshipers leave in silence and darkness to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection on Sunday morning.

**As a simple way to experience Tenebrae**, we suggest you gather your family on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday evening. Light 6-7 candles, then turn off the lights. Read John 19. Every 7-8 verses, extinguish a candle. As the darkness closes in, experience the anguish of Jesus and the costly break in his eternal fellowship with the Father. Ask the Lord to help you experience the Cross in a fresh way. When the burial reading is done, extinguish the last candle. Pray silently for a spell, and then go to bed as you continue to meditate on Jesus.

Father, help us to stay focused on the Cross. Help us grasp the cost of our salvation, without losing the hope that the Resurrection is coming, and that your plans for a new heaven and new earth are going to happen. Help us share these world-changing moments with a sense of intimacy and holiness. Your Kingdom will not be shaken. You are a consuming fire.

### **HUMILITY: texts for meditation and prayer over yourself and our region:**

**James 4:6-10** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

**Micah 6:6-8** With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**Phil. 2:3-4** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

**Luke 9:48** Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

**Luke 18:14** "I tell you that this man (Tax collector), rather than the other (Pharisee), went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

**John 13:12-15** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Isaiah 57:15** For this is what the high and exalted One says — he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

## **REPENTANCE: texts for meditation and prayer over yourself and our region:**

**Zechariah 1:3** Therefore, tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty.

**Luke 5:31-32** Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

**Revelation 3:19** Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

**Matthew 3:8** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

**Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but those who confess and renounce them find mercy.

**Luke 15:7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**Isaiah 30:15** This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."

## **EVANGELISM: be inspired by God's work in St. Patrick (died March 17 462)**

**Look up the life of St Patrick - a hero of the faith - way beyond green beer!**  
**His strategy applied Luke 10:1-16 - and is working now in movements around the world!**

1. Commit a team to reach specific communities.
2. Pray for those in need and serve them practically.
3. Present the Kingdom Gospel and find the people of peace. (eg. Cornelius, Lydia)
4. Plant a Jesus community around the person of peace and appoint leaders. (Titus)
5. Move on to new areas to plant churches. (Paul, Timothy)

May every believer in our region tell their story (Psalm 107:2) and engage their co-workers, neighbors, and friends with the love of Jesus. May teams emerge to engage and serve every community in our region. **Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest field.**

## **EVANGELISM: texts to pray over yourself and our region:**

**Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Luke 10:1-7** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house."

**Matthew 10:7-8** As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

**Colossians 4:2-4** Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

## Monthly Canopy Worship and Prayer - Fourth Sundays 6-8 pm:

**March 24 - Palm Sunday - Convergence Church - 5636 W Fork Road, 45247**

April 28 - Passover - Florence Vineyard - 7101 Pleasant Valley Road 41042

May 14-19 - Korean Intercessors will be praying throughout our city as in 2023.

May 19 - Pentecost Sunday Outreach - Location TBD

June 23 - Mariemont Church - 3908 Plainville Road, 45227

## Special Prayer Requests:

- Pray for an upcoming meeting of Kingdom leaders from many walks of life April 11-12.
- Pray for a spirit of unity as they consider how to advance Kingdom impact in our region.
- Ask for divine strategies to be given by the Spirit to catalyze awakening and revival.
  
- Pray that God gives the Palestinian people shepherds of integrity.
- For protection over Israeli citizens and soldiers, and innocent Palestinians.
- Pray for God's Shalom over Jerusalem and the salvation of Jews and Arabs.
  
- Pray for Muslims to see Jesus as they fast during Ramadan - March 11 to April 8.
- For Call of Love as they reach Muslims in closed countries and disciple them in the faith.
  
- Pray for unborn, and for every mother to choose life for her baby over abortion.
- Pray for the church to support women in crisis through care, adoption, and foster care.
- **Pray for and attend a Mosaix meeting on housing strategy March 13 at noon: [click here](#)**
  
- Pray for the persecuted church to flourish despite oppressive regimes.
- Pray for Pastors in Greater Cincinnati facing cancer, financial needs, and discouragement.
- Pray for God's successor for Michael Wolf to lead the Beth Messiah congregation.

## Connect with praying people and build praying communities:

**Pray for Ohio** First Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm on Zoom: Go to [www.prayforohio.org](http://www.prayforohio.org) where you can sign up. Email [ursula@forcolumbus.org](mailto:ursula@forcolumbus.org) with any questions.

**Thank you for praying! Your prayers are changing our City and our Region!**  
**Follow our Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy Facebook Page for our latest news.**

**Check out our website** and leave a prayer request [www.gcprayercanopy.net](http://www.gcprayercanopy.net).  
One hour a month will change our region!

**View and share our three-minute canopy video as an easy next step to invite others!** It's at this link: <https://gcprayercanopy.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PrayerCanopy.mp4>