



Thank you for leading the Prayers of the People! The following guidelines will help you prepare.

How Intercession Fits into a Worship Service

Your prayers should focus on the glory of God. As you praise him, pray *against* the evil status quo (e.g. unjust war, oppression, government corruption, heresy, broken relationships) and *for* the expansion of the Kingdom of God (e.g. church unity, justice, healing, reconciliation). Our prayers always need to be kingdom-centered because the King and the kingdom are inseparable. "...hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

An Agenda for Your Prayer

This time of prayer is historically called the "pastoral prayer" or "the prayers of the people." This means that this prayer is not the prayer of one person but the prayer of the gathered community. Since you will be leading this time, take time to focus your personal prayer life on the areas that you will be praying for on Sunday morning – let your public prayers flow out of your communion with God. Pray that you may be able to lead people in prayer effectively. Use the table below to direct your content. Also, feel free to pray specifically for those suffering and sick in our church under the "Intown" section.

<u>Week</u>	<u>World</u>	<u>Nation</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Intown</u>
First	Latin Amer.	Economic stability	PRM	Hope Pres	Pastor / Session
Second	Africa	Justice and courts	Homeless/Jobless	Ascension Pres	Diaconate / Mercy
Third	Europe	Civil leaders	Dinner & a Movie	Evergreen Pres	Home Groups
Fourth	Asia	Disasters and/or Poverty	Human Trafficking	Chehalem Valley	Unity for Mission
Fifth	Middle East	Int'l Aid/Involvement	Addiction	Hope Pres	Worship / Outreach

Seek to lead people into the presence of God for the glory of God, and for their edification. Biblical prayers, and the prayers of great Christians through the centuries, are poetic and heartfelt. They are richly textured with God’s truths and promises, are bathed in repentance and humility, and are grounded in confidence that they will be answered.

Technical Pointers

1. **BE YOURSELF:** Your personality and relationship with God should show in your prayers. Don’t be afraid! If you’ve prepared, there is nothing to worry about. You’ve been picked as a part of the congregation, not as a polished veteran of the stage.
2. **WRITE:** Write your prayers before you pray publicly. The entire prayer time should last 3 minutes.
3. **MEET:** Meet with the Pastor 15 minutes before the service for a quick review of your written prayer.
4. **DELIVERY:** Always speak clearly and loudly. If you are speaking in your usual tone of voice, you are not speaking loudly enough. Adjust the microphone by the movable arm.
5. **PREPARATION:** Don’t just pray spontaneously. Celebrate the richness of the descriptions and metaphors God has given us by which we may know and address him. Prayers need not sound dull, like they are being read, but preparation will keep you from certain pitfalls:
 - Stammering** – *"uh, God uh, just really, uh, I just just really..."*
 - Repetition** – *"Father-God, we love you, Father-God" "Lord, we want you to be Lord, Lord"*
 - Evangelical Clichés** – *"you are our El Shaddai" "Thank you for all your blessings"*
 - Stage Fright Heresy** – *"Jesus, we're so glad you're not human like us"*
6. **SENSITIVITY:** You will be overheard by many non-Christians, so please avoid:
 - Partisan Prayers** – *"Lord, prevent Candidate X from winning this election."*
 - Insensitive Prayers** – *"Lord, please work against the homosexual agenda."*
 - Preaching through Prayer**– *"for we know, if we just trust you for salvation, perhaps at the end of this service, we can be healed of our anxiety and fear."*