

# **Community Prayer Guide – March 2025**

#### "The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love." Psalm 33:18

Thank you for joining the "One Church - One Day" movement in our city! When you pray for the city, please be led by the Holy Spirit as you consider these specific prayer requests and pray for your own congregation also.

#### **Body of Christ**

- All-wise God, help your shepherds and leaders to lean in and listen to Your wise counsel.
- God of compassion, You tell us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help us see them as You do.
- Author of faith, empower us to renounce worry and choose confident trust in You.
- Generous God, show us Your good provision for the poor, troubled and homeless in our midst.

# Arts and Culture

- Shepherd of Your people, we ask You to open up evening meeting places for your artists this winter.
- God of abundant provision, we ask you to release financial provision for artists and creatives.
- Author of creativity, grant favour on Christians pursuing the arts as educators or students.
- God our healer, restore Your artists in spirit, soul and body, and set them in community.

# Business

- As business owners and consumers make spending decisions, keep their hearts free from anxiety, guide them with Your wisdom, remind them that You are Lord.
- Help employers and employees to honour You by seeking to practice love and justice in all their dealings, grateful for your goodness and generosity.
- Protect business owners and employees from conversation driven by anxiety or anger. Grant wisdom, grace and faith for positive, life-giving discourse.

#### Education

- As teachers deal with many demands, uphold them, encourage them and strengthen them with Your great love and wisdom
- Grant discernment to those serving You in education to know what is best for students, and loving boldness to speak life and truth.
- Empower teachers and administrators to work together with unity and joy.
- In mercy, watch over educators and students during March Break; give rest and safety.

# **Health Care**

- All-wise God, inspire healthcare providers with knowledge and wisdom as they serve their patients.
- Mover of hearts and minds, direct decision-makers to provide for community-based health care, including family physicians.
- God our Healer, heal sick people and protect them from sickness, alleviating the strain on our healthcare systems.

# Police, Fire, EMS

- Mighty God, as our first responders serve You, keep them safe, guard their minds, and lead them in decisions that are right.
- God of comfort, shepherd the families and loved ones of those serving in dangerous places. Teach them to trust You, and establish peace in their hearts.
- May first responders dealing with stress and trauma seek the supports available.
- Prompt Christian first responders to reach out with care when colleagues are in need.

### Family

- Father of all, grant that families would experience a healthy and restorative March Break.
- Defender of the oppressed, rescue families in mental health issues, abuse issues, poverty, or physical sickness.
- May families who don't know the gospel have the opportunity to hear the good news.

#### Media

- Lord of all, may journalists have strong and wise leadership in these turbulent and uncertain times in the media.
- Grant to journalists covering elections and transitions in government much wisdom in choosing stories, guests, and programs that engage audiences with the stories and in democracy.
- May Your will be done for Canada's public broadcaster and private news media.

#### Government

- Lord Jesus, we ask for new connections between Christians and local Government that we might work together for the common good.
- We pray for peace and guidance for local government leaders amid new financial pressures.
- Father, we give You thanks for the zoning approval to fast track building shelters for homeless people, praying for these to be built quickly, and for further long term solutions to homelessness to remain on the table.

Thank you for joining many other congregations as we pray for a transformed city.

# **Testimonies**

<u>Government</u>: We prayed for encouragement for everyone at OC Transpo (and at least one congregation prayed specifically for funding). Federal and provincial governments both announced new funding. While there are potential drawbacks to the plans, the positive is that it ensures the critical funding for the long term. Let's continue to pray for encouragement for city transit staff, too. <u>[source]</u>

<u>Media</u>: We prayed for sustainability in local news media and Minister St. Onge announced a proposal for a new funding structure for CBC/Radio Canada. It's only a proposal at this stage, but it's a new approach. [source]

<u>Arts and Culture</u>: We prayed for Winterlude and the report is that 'Mother Nature' cooperated, and they had very high attendance in Ottawa's Winter Wonderland. [source]

<u>Police, Fire and EMS</u>: We prayed for safety for our first responders and firefighters responding to a 911 call are safe after inspecting a compromised parking garage that ended up collapsing hours later. [source]