



THE WATCH FOR AWAKENING

24/7 PRAYER

Welcome to the Watch for Awakening, an ongoing 24-7 Prayer movement, comprised of seven prayer watches (of roughly 50 days each, with one 10 day watch) over a year period.

Please share this guide to prayer far and wide and use anywhere and everywhere it seems to fit to help focus prayer for awakening. We want to know who you are and where you are so we can better serve you and connect you with resources and the larger community as appropriate and helpful. Visit watchforawakening.com to register your participation and choose a time to pray.

We have felt a deep resonance with a particular word from the prophet Isaiah. We have adapted it slightly in the spirit of the New Testament Church.

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem, and makes her the praise of the earth.

Isaiah 62:6-7 (adapted)

We will watch and pray. We will listen and speak. Word and Spirit. Heart and home. Church and city. Until heaven breaks in on earth with great awakening.

To that end, we covenant together in the following ways:

WE WILL WATCH

Giving attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, attuning our hearts and minds to both whispers and wonders, signs and symbols, messages and movements, and we will covenant to share such with one another as led.

WE WILL PRAY

Renouncing anxiety and fear, we will let faith arise; asking, seeking and knocking; confessing, lamenting, and repenting; listening, longing and loving God, neighbor and enemy until awakening breaks forth like the dawn. Though we grow to ten million souls on the watch, we will pray as one.

WE WILL WAIT

With our ears to the ground and our eyes on the horizon, we will wait upon the Lord. We will make no plans he does not inspire; launch no initiatives he does not authorize; and make no movements he does not compel. He is the potter. We are the clay.

WE WILL WORK

In the spirit of watching, praying, and waiting we will work to make disciples of Jesus Christ who bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, healing for the sick, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed, and new life to dead places. And our work will be a sowing unto the Lord for a great awakening.

THE WATCH FOR AWAKENING: EASTER TO ASCENSION

(April 4 to May 13, 2021)

CENTERING ON

The Watch of Easter to Ascension is an invitation to pray as we rise to new life with Christ Jesus in the celebration of Easter, fixing our minds on heavenly things as we celebrate Christ's Ascension to the right hand of the Father. Imaged in the sacred act of baptism, Lenten anticipation reminded us that we descended with Christ into the grave – surrendering our life to the Father's new creation work. Easter now turns our attention toward rising with Christ from death, imaged by being drawn from the baptismal waters.

Easter spirituality is an ongoing, hopeful response to the awakening work of the Holy Spirit, welcoming death to our sin and rebellion, and welcoming the new life Jesus offers us as the covenant children of God. Ascension Day, which falls on a Thursday (the 40th of Easter, and 10 days before Pentecost), takes us to the moment Jesus ascends to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father (Luke 24:50-53). We are called to “set our minds on things above” (Col. 3:1), living as those whose earthly life is “crammed with heaven” (Seamands, *The Unseen Real* 2). Because of Easter and the Ascension, the doorway is open for us to live as royal citizens of heaven who embody the Kingdom of God on earth – individually and as a community. “Jesus is Lord!” is our central prayer.

Easter Sunday to Ascension Day is a 40-day journey, guiding us through the season of Eastertide toward Pentecost.

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

—John 20:24-29

Exercise: The disciple Thomas knew what it was like to be human – just as we do! Doubters from the womb, it often takes wondrous encounters with the love of God for us to be awakened from the sleep of cynicism.

Take a few moments now to quiet your heart and mind, imagining Jesus coming to you as He did to Thomas in his season of doubt. Imagine the risen Christ standing before you, one arm outstretched, bearing the mark inflicted by the crucifixion nail. Then, with His other hand, He points at His side – for you to behold the entry point of the spear that pierced Him.

Allow your mind to wander through the sequence of events that follow, leading to your own, “My Lord and my God!” experience with Jesus.

JOINING IN

We are a part of a global movement of prayer as we enter this Watch together. The movement of Easter is from the reality of death to the reality of life, and the movement of Ascension is from the reality of Christ resurrected on earth to the reality of Christ ascended as Lord of all to His kingly throne. These movements should infuse our prayers with fresh hope and vitality! 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (below) helps us take hold of the vision of the wider community of Christ at prayer – a community of the resurrection and of the age to come – into which we have been welcomed by Jesus Himself. Two thousand years after the Christ event, Psalm 110:1 (the most quoted Old Testament verse in the New Testament) serves to remind us that Christ is reigning from heaven, guiding history toward its culmination in the New Creation. As you read the following scriptures, consider yourself as part of the sequence of those to whom Jesus has made Himself known. Know that as we join together in prayer, we never pray alone – we pray surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) and in tandem with all those who name Christ as Lord in our generation.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.
—1 Cor. 15:3-8

INTERCEDE FOR

As we enter into intercession for hearts, homes, churches, and cities, speak out this Easter proclamation in John 15:55 along with all those who have gone before, and who now hold festival around the miracle of Christ as the Risen Lord – emerging from the tomb and ascending into heaven to intercede for us (Rom. 8:34) at God's right hand.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
—1 Cor. 15:55

PRAY FOR AWAKENING IN HEARTS

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. —Ephesians 1:17-19

Begin by praying for your own heart that though you are awakened, there is more of the Lord and his grace to awaken to and appropriate in your life.

- For God to awaken us from slumber
- For the Lord to break up the fallow ground in our hearts and sow seeds of awakening (Hos. 10:12)
- For the Lord to give ear to our words and listen to our cries for help (Ps. 5:1-2)
- For God to raise the level of holy discontent within us that we might long for more of Him
- For God to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in us and the gifts of the Spirit through us
- For God to awaken us to our belovedness in the midst of our brokenness

- For God to give us a hunger for his Word and a thirst for his Spirit like never before
- For God to help us love our enemies
- That we would forgive those who have hurt us
- That we would be filled with love and compassion
- May we put on the armor of God (Eph. 6):
 - » Take a stand against the devil's schemes
 - » The belt of truth around our waist
 - » The breastplate of righteousness in place
 - » Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace
 - » We take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God

PRAY FOR AWAKENING IN HOMES

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*
—Numbers 6:24-26

Begin by speaking out the names of your children or family members before God for blessing and favor.

- For God's presence to fill our homes
- For the strengthening of marriages in Christ
- For the hearts of fathers and mothers to be turned to their children
- Declare over your home: “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” (Josh. 24:5)
- For all family members to experience saving grace and for all to be taught the Christian faith in their homes—that they would grow in wisdom, stature, and the favor of God and people
- For families in distress, crisis, financial strain, and health challenges—that Christ would turn agony into awakening
- For any personal needs in your family (provision, employment, reconciliation, peace, sickness, mental illness, or others struggles)
- For families who are suffering with or who have lost loved ones from COVID-19
- All the above for our neighbors—speak them by name: “[Name]—peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.” (1 Sam. 25:6)

PRAY FOR AWAKENING IN CHURCHES

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
—1 Peter 2:4-5

Begin by naming your own church and other churches in your town or city.

- For a joyful unified recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord
- For the many different churches in a particular community to begin to recognize they are only together the Body of Christ and pray for unity among them.
- For a hungering and thirsting after the Word of God and the Spirit of God in our local churches
- For our pastors and leaders struggling to give leadership through this pandemic
- For a deepened appetite for prayer to arise and be mobilized in our churches
- For our churches to become agencies of all manner of healing in our communities
- For banded discipleship to take root and bring deep wholeness to people
- For the raising up of spiritually gifted apostles, prophets, evangelists,

shepherds, and teachers within our churches (Eph. 4:11)

- That churches would be awakened to their mission to make disciples who reach the lost
- For churches to rescue the perishing, care for the dying, and serve the poor
- That churches would rise up into their apostolic calling to be the central agencies of salvation and grace, healing and wholeness, prophetic justice, and extravagant mercy in a local community and beyond.
- For churches to be blessed with financial provision to serve their communities
- For local churches to move toward one another in unity for the sake of awakening in the larger community in which they are located

PRAY FOR AWAKENING IN TOWNS AND CITIES

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. —Isaiah 61:4

Begin by naming your town or city and perhaps neighboring towns and cities in the region.

- For God to bring an awakening to Jesus Christ through his Spirit upon our city, town, and region (name where you live)
- For local churches to move toward one another in unity for the sake of awakening in the larger community in which they are located
- For God to bring awakening to Jesus Christ through his Spirit upon our city, town, and region (name where you live)
- For many to come to faith in Jesus Christ
- For the Kingdom of God to break in on towns and cities with all manner of transformation in every sector of society
- For the delivering work of the Holy Spirit to set people free from all manner of addiction, bondage and strongholds of sin
- For our towns and cities to become increasingly delivered from strongholds of darkness and death
- For the decrease of alcohol and drug addiction
- For the decrease of homelessness, poverty, and crime
- For the decrease of depression, anxiety, and mental illness
- For the decrease of sexual brokenness, physical violence, and all manner of hatred
- For the increase of peace across bitter political and ideological divisions
- For the increase of good will across the community
- For the increase of racial harmony
- For the increase of love, one to another
- For the peace and prosperity of the city in which you have been assigned (Jer. 29:7)

CLOSING THE WATCH

PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER:

Thank you Father for meeting with us in this time of watching and praying. We close by praying for any and everyone who has joined during this particular time of prayer, near and far.

If praying with a group, each person pray for another person by name. If praying alone, pray for others who are also keeping the watch for awakening.

Close out with the Lord's Prayer.