



Christian
Reformed
Church

PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER 2023

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

—Luke 11:1

1 FRIDAY (Decolonization and Antiracism Collective) *Inclusion—Lord, grant us strength to foster a community where all share their gifts, feel loved, and see the light of Christ in the people we serve. Help us to remember that each of us is loved, willed, and essential. May we balance mercy and justice to achieve equity, access, and belonging for all your children. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

2 SATURDAY (ReFrame Ministries) *Egypt—ReFrame’s partners in Egypt are attending a Christian film festival this week. Pray that they will make good connections with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are skilled in media ministry. Pray that these connections will allow them to further their witness and grow their newly formed team.*

3 SUNDAY (Calvin University) *Faith—Give thanks with us for vibrant Christian faith and practice taking place on Calvin’s campus. Pray for faculty members as they seek to integrate the good news of Jesus into all they do. Pray for students, especially those new to faith, struggling in faith, or doubting their faith or the church. May God’s love and grace be revealed to them.*

4 MONDAY (Resonate Global Mission) *Alberta—Pray for Sara, a student who connected with Christy*

Harper, a campus minister at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Sara has deep roots in the Sikh religion, but she’s interested in the gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing Sara into a relationship with Jesus.

5 TUESDAY (World Renew) *Staffing—We praise God that our ministry continues to grow, creating more opportunities to serve. As we ask for prayer that people with the talent and heart for God’s work will step forward into new roles, we also pray for staff who have stepped up in times of transition, who are recruiting and interviewing, and who are enfolding new team members.*

6 WEDNESDAY (ReFrame) *Advent—Many of our ministry teams around the world are providing songs, devotions, and other content for local churches to use in their Christmas services. Pray for partner churches as they prepare Christmas messages and times of fellowship.*

7 THURSDAY (Thrive: Faith Formation) *God’s leading—Pray for all who will hear the gospel through Christmas programs and other special worship services this month. Whether they are hearing the good news of Jesus for the first time or after a lifetime of attending services, may the message lead them to or strengthen them in faith and trust in God.*

8 FRIDAY (Resonate) *Philippines*—Sung Ho Jung and Hye Sung Park, Resonate missionaries in the Philippines, ask you to pray for a student with whom Sung Ho has been meeting to study the Bible. “Pray for him to accept Jesus as his personal Savior,” they ask.

9 SATURDAY (World Renew) *Child health*—In vulnerable areas where we serve, many infants and young children do not have access to safe water or appropriate nutrition. Please pray for them and for the work our partners are doing in rural communities to educate and support families with small children during their first 1,000 days of life (pregnancy through age 2).

10 SUNDAY (ReFrame) *India*—A woman named Anu recently met with fellow Christians for the first time in years. She attended a writer’s workshop with our partners and is contributing her God-given talents to writing audio scripts for their work in ministry. Pray that she’ll continue to combat isolation while remaining safe from local violence against Christians.

11 MONDAY (Thrive: Disability and Accessibility) *Advocates*—We thank God for four new regional advocates and seven new church advocates in CRC churches in 2023. May God give them wisdom as they advocate, and may church leaders be receptive to their work.

12 TUESDAY (Resonate) *Ukraine*—“Please continue to pray for peace and justice in Ukraine—and in all of the countries where LCC students come from. The future of the political situation

in the region remains uncertain, and your prayers are vital,” share Resonate missionaries Tricia and Benjamin Groenewold Van Dyk, who serve at LCC International University in Lithuania.

13 WEDNESDAY (Thrive: Safe Church) *Healing*—In this Advent and Christmas season many people will spend time celebrating with family. Please pray for people who find it difficult to be with family because of the harm they experience there, and for people who choose to be alone to avoid harm. May God bring them comfort and healing in this season of peace and hope.

14 THURSDAY (World Renew) *Food security*—Nearly a billion people worldwide are experiencing food insecurity due to conflict, climate change, and economic downturn. But in Christ there is hope! Through training, people in poverty can increase food production and incomes. May these solutions continue to help communities break the cycle of poverty and turn hunger into hope.

15 FRIDAY (ThereforeGo Ministries) *SERVE*—We are excitedly preparing for SERVE 2024! This year we have a capacity of over 1,300 participants across 14 different states and provinces. Registration opened Nov. 1, and spots are filling up quickly. Please pray for churches and individuals as they register for SERVE 2024.

16 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Church plants*—Many people who don’t normally attend church might do so during this time of year. Please pray for Resonate partner church plants as

they plan for and host outreach events, worship services, and more this Christmas season. Ask God for wisdom, guidance, and open doors.

17 SUNDAY (Thrive: Chaplains) *Care centers*—Several of our chaplains work in care centers for people with various disabilities. This work calls for creativity and compassion as chaplains care for residents with unique needs and gifts. Please pray for all our chaplains who walk with individuals and families in these settings, seeking to bring the peace and love of God.

18 MONDAY (ReFrame) *Recovery*—A *Today* devotional reader named Gail asks for prayers for patience and trust. “My son has been in recovery from addiction,” she said; “I do not doubt that our heavenly Father is with him. Pray that God’s grace and peace will be with him always.”

19 TUESDAY (World Renew) *Refugees*—As of May 2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide. As the year comes to a close, we pray for the many millions of refugees who have fled their countries, seeking opportunity, safety, and freedom. Pray that they may find strong advocates for their most basic human rights, bringing them hospitality and hope for the future.

20 WEDNESDAY (Resonate) *Uganda*—Resonate missionaries Josh and Mandy Shaarda led a “New Life” gathering for former inmates in Uganda. They read the Bible together, prayed together, shared testimonies, and participated in an outreach event. Pray

that the seeds planted at this gathering will grow.

21 THURSDAY (Edmonton Native Healing Centre) *Seasons*—As seasons change, so does our community. This fall, we lost three younger people to drug overdoses. Our staff members need prayers for peace and courage as they carry on their work in difficult situations. Please pray for peace and joy as we move into the season of winter rest. We’re thankful that seasonal changes show the Creator’s faithfulness and abundance. Hiy, Hiy!

22 FRIDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) *Christmas season*—Many of our students, especially international students, are not able to travel home to be with family members for the holidays. Pray for all who will travel as well as for all who are apart from family during this season, that tidings of comfort and joy may overflow in their homes as they celebrate Christ’s coming.

23 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Cohort*—Pray for young adults who are volunteering with Resonate through Cohort programs in Central America, Detroit, Europe, and the Middle East. Ask God to work in and through them as they serve with a ministry, living in community and engaging in deep spiritual formation.

24 SUNDAY (Communications) *Christmas Eve*—Thousands of Christians will gather in churches this evening and tomorrow to celebrate the birth of Christ. As we come together, may God fill us with wonder at his plan for salvation, and with love for the people of this world he came to save.

25 MONDAY (World Renew)
Christmas Day—We give thanks to God for the opportunity to love and serve our brothers and sisters around the world this holiday season. May the Lord be at the center of all our activities as we celebrate the birth of the Savior. We ask God for mercy and justice for all who are experiencing disaster, conflict, poverty, and other challenges.

26 TUESDAY (Candidacy Committee) *Harvest workers*— There are more CRCNA churches searching for a pastor than there are available candidates and ministers. Please join the Candidacy Committee in prayer for the Lord to send laborers into the harvest field!

27 WEDNESDAY (Resonate)
Central Asia—Pray for Resonate missionaries preparing to leave for Central Asia, where they will be working in church planting. Ask God to continue to develop a strong support network for them, for comfort as they move away from family and friends, and for open doors as they begin ministry on the field.

28 THURSDAY (Educational Care)
Eastern Africa—December through February are busy times for Educational Care in Eastern Africa. Pray for open hearts among participants and for strength and resilience for our facilitators, some of whom will be away from their families for a month as they

work with different groups each week. May the light of God bring growth for everyone involved.

29 FRIDAY (ReFrame) *Japan*—“Mr. O” has been using our podcast episodes to share his faith with Muslim believers in his area. Pray for him and others who listen to these audio programs, and may the episodes help them grow in faith and strengthen them to share the love and good news of Christ with others.

30 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Florida*— Many people who have left Haiti have found a home in Florida— and a faith community through one of several Christian Reformed church plants. Pray for strong partnerships between Resonate, classes, church planters, and established congregations as they seek to serve the Haitian community.

31 SUNDAY (CRCNA leadership)
New Year's Eve—At the end of 2023, please give thanks for God's faithful work among our churches as they share God's love in their local communities and through global connections. Pray that in 2024 the Holy Spirit will raise up pastors, chaplains, elders, deacons, and missionaries to shepherd God's people and encourage them in works of service and evangelism.

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