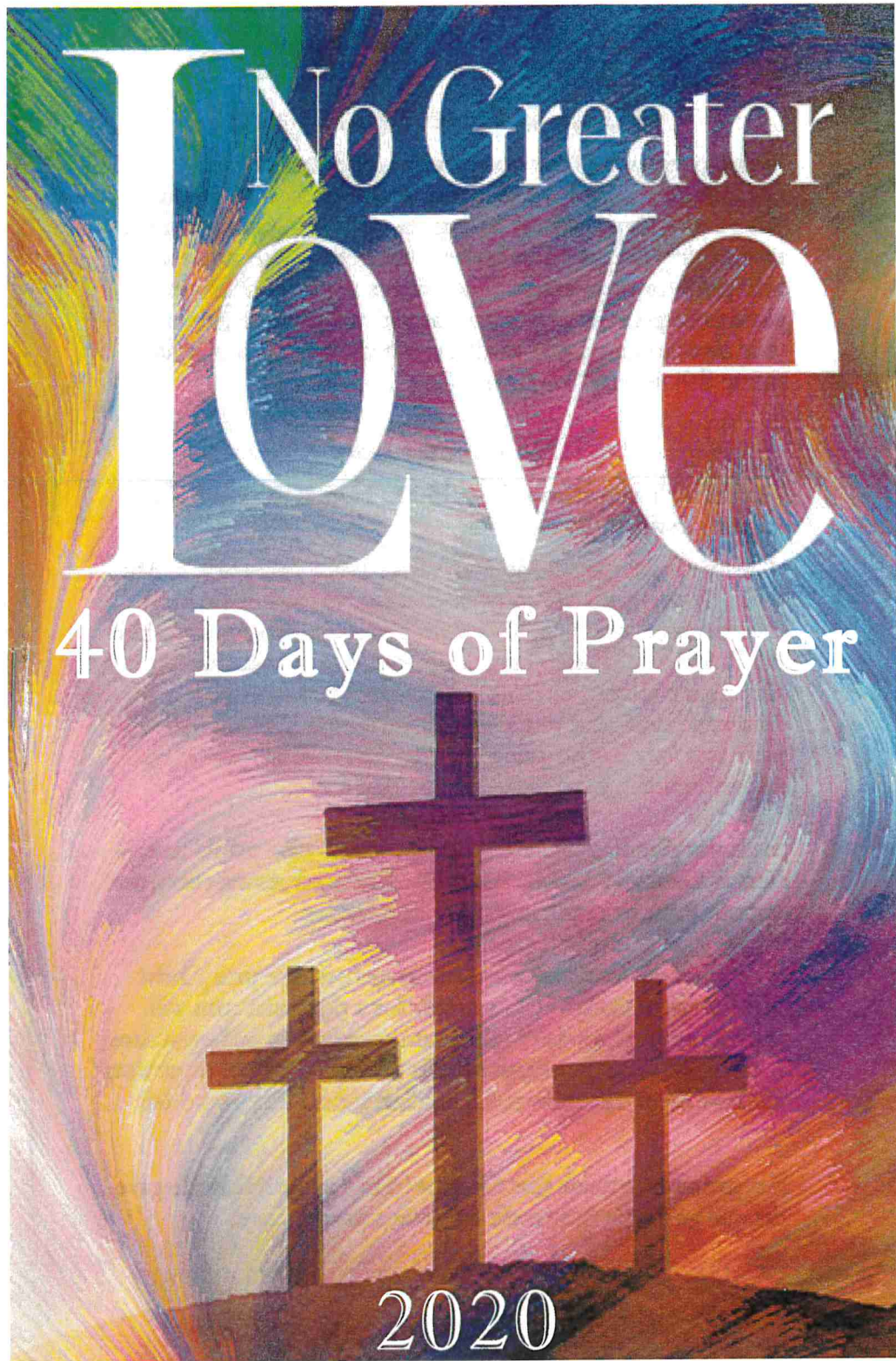




Edgewood Church Of Joy

1120 114th Ave E.
 Edgewood, WA 98372
 edgewoodchurchofjoy.com
 253 927-2427

Meridian Ave East	Walgreens	Hedden Elementary	
	8 th St E		
	Edgewood Church of Joy 1120 114 Ave E		114 Ave E



40 Days of Prayer Before Easter

Welcome to our 40 day adventure in corporate prayer. Beginning on March 4 and going to Easter morning, April 12, there are 40 days. We are asking the church to pray specifically each of the 40 days. This booklet has been put together to help guide us corporately. The prayers in this booklet are a place to begin your prayer time as you add to these prayers your own concerns and needs of others and yourself. Our theme this year is: "*No Greater Love.*"

No Greater Love

Our theme is taken from John 15:13. Here is the verse in the context in which Jesus spoke:

*⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:9 - 13*

Jesus was planning on giving His life for all who would receive Him as Lord and Savior. After His death and resurrection, the Apostle Paul, writing many years later, wrote:

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

It is amazing to think that God loved us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die for your sins and mine.

Why 40 days?

The 40 day adventure in prayer gives us an opportunity to deepen our walk with Jesus and heighten our celebration of His resurrection. When Christians unite in a concert of prayer, God's power is unleashed and miracles happen! We are praying these next 40 days for the salvation of souls during Easter. This is the greatest miracle we can witness.

So why 40 days? The Christian church has for many centuries observed a 40 day time of preparation prior to Easter. In some circles it is called, "Lent" which means; "fortieth." Forty is an important number in the Bible. Consider some of these famous forties:

40 days Moses was on Mt Sinai with God. Exodus 24

40 days Elijah was on Mt. Horeb. I Kings 19

40 days God sent rain on the earth in Noah's Day. Gen. 7

40 days the spies were in the Promised Land before the conquest.

40 Years the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. Num. 14

40 days Jonah prophesied against Nineveh. Jonah 3

40 days Jesus fasted, was tempted, and overcame the devil prior to entering His public Ministry. Mt.4, Mark 1. Luke 4.

Many Christian denominations observe some form of the 40 days, depending on their traditions and the church calendar. Anglican, Catholic, Calvinists, Lutherans, Methodists and other denominations use the six weeks before Easter as a time of personal preparation.

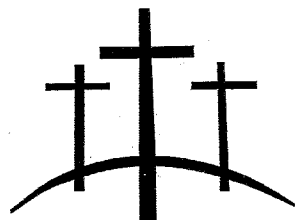
Christians all over the world commit to prayer and confession of sins. Often this time of Lent is accompanied by self-denial or penance. Some, like the Catholics abstain from eating meat or do some sort of other penitence like giving money to the poor or fasting. Some believers will follow a 40 day devotional guide and some churches provide a prayer labyrinth where faithful followers of Christ can pray and walk the 10 (or 12) Stations of the cross without going on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

As we join our hearts in corporate prayer, there is an excitement and enthusiasm which accompanies the knowledge that other believers are also praying the same prayer to our Father. Together we are also covenanting to pray for a number of issues as we join our hearts in this focused and intentional prayer time:

For our Easter Outreach: The Salvation of Souls.
For our church; protection from evil, and growth in love.
For all of our church families, workers and pastors.
For our children and youth.
For our seniors and those with disabilities or illness.
For our missionaries and partner organizations.
For our church finances and governance.
For our city, our state and our nation.
For those who are being persecuted and oppressed.

Over the next 40 days we will have the opportunity to grow together in prayer. As the number 40 is a significant number in the Bible, I trust that this 40-day adventure in prayer will be a significant part of your life and walk with Christ.

- Pastor Mark vonEhrenkrook
Edgewood, WA 2020



Dear Praying Friend;

Today let's prepare the ground of our heart to receive whatever it is that the Lord might choose to grow there. Like a magnet drawn by unseen forces, may our hearts be drawn to prayer these next 40 days by the invisible hand of the Spirit.

Preparation before the 40 days

Lord, create in me a clean heart and a right spirit. Remove any hindrance and sin that would interfere with our intimacy and communication. Touch my heart and make it receptive to the things that you will teach me, and show me, in the next 40 days. May I ever be mindful of the 40 days that you were in the wilderness, your temptation, and trial, and yet you did not sin. During that trial you earned the right to be called the "sinless sacrifice." Then at Calvary, you took on my sin and the sins of the whole world. You who "knew no sin was made sin" for me that through you, I might experience the righteousness of God. Lord, please draw near to me in the next 40 days, tune my heart to worship and praise you with a whole heart. Cleanse me, fill me and use me today. I love you Lord! Amen.

Day 1 March 4, Wednesday

Lord, you are the True vine, I am one of your branches. Today, let me abide in you. May I feel, sense and know the power of your Spirit-life flowing through me, not to make me a better person, but so that your life may be in me and abound. May the fruit of the Spirit be evident in all I do and say today.

Please keep me from the trap and game of trying to manufacture your fruit in me, let me see your fruit multiply in my life as a result of being connected to the vine. May those who see my life see past me and recognize your face in me. Help me to relax, be at peace and experience the fullness of your Spirit life today. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

Day 2 March 5, Thursday

Lord, I add my prayers to those who are also reaching out to you in this 40-day adventure. As we come into your throne room, as you hear the prayers of our hearts, may they be pleasing in your sight. May we pray according to your will and purposes. You have clearly reminded us that you desire intimacy in love and truth. May your Holy Spirit illumine our hearts and convict us of any sin or unrighteousness. We want to worship you out of a whole heart, lovingly devoted to you. Bind our hearts together in Christian love and unity and may you be pleased. We come with prayers and intercessions for our loved ones and those who do not yet know you. Lord, please hear our prayer and answer us when we call out to you. We love you Lord, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 3 March 6, Friday

Lord, I realize that these are unique and difficult times. I know that this earth, as wonderful as it is, is not my home. I look forward to my eternal home and abiding with you forever. Please help me to think straight on the matters that confront me as a Christian, don't let me get confused or discouraged. As I commit to pray during the 40 days leading up to Easter, put on my heart what I need to pray for and give me the peace that passes understanding as I rest in the knowledge that Easter, and the Resurrection, means the victory over sin and death. Touch my life, dear Lord, and touch our church. Thank you for what you are doing, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 4, March 7, Saturday

Lord, your Word for me is "a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." May the Word of God fill my heart so that I do not desire evil or sin. Plant your Word deeply in my heart, Lord, and may the fruit of your Spirit-life spring out of me like a fountain. May your Word dwell in me and I in your Word.

Fill me Lord; may I experience the life-transforming power of the Living Word in my life. Remove those things in my heart that keep me from knowing you fully. I love you, Lord. Thank you for allowing me to draw near to you and your promise to draw near to me. In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

Day 5 March 8, Sunday, The Lord's Day **Global Day of Prayer for BURMA**

Father, I thank you for this day. Thank you for the opportunity to rise today and to meet with you along with our brothers and sisters. Thank you for allowing us the freedom to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. Help me not to take these freedoms for granted or to get complacent or too contented with my life. While members of your Body suffer harassment and torment at the hands of evil men, I am protected from such persecution. Thank you for this protection, for your grace and mercy. I pray for the persecuted church today and ask that you will strengthen the hands, the heart and the feet of those whom are oppressed for your Name's sake. Be with those in prison and those who are displaced. Again we thank you for our church and the choices we enjoy. Continue to protect us, to grow us and to use us in your kingdom, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 6 March 9, Monday

Father, you told us that if we ask anything according to the Name of Jesus that it will be done. May your Holy Spirit teach me, and all of us on this 40-day adventure, how to pray according to that Wonderful Name. May we realize the power of prayer that seeks your will and purposes in our world and in our lives. Again, please tune my heart to receive your instruction and guidance, to know what to pray for and how to pray. Today, I pray the prayer that you taught the disciples:

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Mathew6:9-13, NKJV)

Day 7 March 10, Tuesday

I am free. Because I am loved by you, I am free to love unconditionally. Because I am completely forgiven by you, I can freely forgive others who have trespassed against me. Because you have given me the Peace that passes understanding, I am free to live in that peace. Because you are patient with me, I am equipped to be patient with others. Because you are gentle with me, I can be gracious and gentle with others. Because you are kind to me, I know what kindness looks like and I can reach out in kindness even to those who are rude and unkind. Lord, you have given me an example of humility and servant leadership. May I not just be informed by your life example, but be transformed by it and through that, transform my world.

Day 8 March 11, Wednesday

Dear Lord, how quickly time passes. Yet you are the same yesterday, today and forever. I can cling to you and know my anchor holds and grips the solid rock. I thank you today for your eternal unchangeableness. In this world I experience turbulent change and yet can rest in you. I can completely trust you. Thank you for the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His mercies that are new every morning. You are an unchangeable, no shadow of turning, God, yet new every morning. You are the

great and Awesome Creator God and worthy of all the praise, glory and honor due your Holy Name. I love you, Lord, and I want to walk with you today in the newness of life and the mystery of godliness. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and draw me close to you today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 9 March 12, Thursday

Blessed Lord, you are a God whose compassions do not fail and in whom are all the promises: Yes, and AMEN! You sit on the High Place. Let me see your coming and going, let me taste of your grace and loving kindness and reveal to me your mighty arm that saves to the uttermost. Do not let the Word of God in my life spill out like water on the ground, but may it accomplish all that you desire it to do. Let me be a doer of the Word and not merely a hearer. Teach me to pray and lay hold of your throne of grace and mercy. Grant my requests, oh Lord, that I make according to your will and in the authority of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 10 March 13, Friday

Lord, thank you that you are a High Priest who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. You were in all points tempted and tested, yet you endured without sin. You knew the grief of loosing a loved one to the grave. You felt the suffering and the pain of friends who deserted you and sold you out. You knew hardship and heartache. Then after all you experienced at the hands of your creation, you were tortured and died an excruciating death. All of this time, you knew me and had me on your thoughts and in your heart. You rose the victor over sin and death so that I would not have to face death and separation. You have prepared a place for me and are coming back to take me home to be with you forever. How great a God! How marvelous a salvation you have lavished on me and all who call you Lord. The extent of your love knows no boundaries. Help me to walk in your love today and to extend your love and forgiveness to others, as you have loved and forgiven me. Amen.

Day 11 March 14, Saturday

Lord, today I affirm that the secret to the Christian life is not having any secrets. May my heart be open and transparent before you and others. May I have no room in my heart for anything except your presence. Some people think of their hearts with a throne and You on the throne. Others think of your Lordship over every aspect of their lives. For me today, Lord, create a clean, whole heart, a place where you are free to enter any space. A heart wholly devoted to you and your presence. As I abide in your life, and you in mine, may the fruit of the Spirit be evident and growing out of my life. May the things I do prosper in You. May I get excited about each day and the adventure of being completely plugged into you, the True Vine.

Day 12 March 15, Sunday the Lord's Day

Lord, on this day that you have made, I thank you for the changing seasons. You have appointed a time and season for everything under heaven. You have also approved seasons for each person's life. Thank you for the seasons of my life. I have walked with you and seen your faithfulness throughout each season. There have been times I have walked along side of you and times you have carried me, but you have never failed me, no matter what I have said or done, you still love me with your overwhelming and unconditional love. How I love you, because you first loved me and gave your life a ransom for my soul. Lord, I realize that many in Edgewood do not know that their sins have been paid in full. They have not taken hold of the forgiveness and cleansing you offer; that you make fully and freely available.

Please help us as a community of believers, your church, to share the good news with Edgewood. Lord, please give us opportunity to also share with the children because we remember you said,

"Let the little children come unto me." May we see new life springing up today and this year through the transforming power of your gospel. Thank you for entrusting us with the message of salvation and may we be worthy stewards of this grace, in Jesus' Name.

Day 13 March 16, Monday

This week I want to pray about the place where you, God, have placed me. The Edgewood area is a place well known to you, and a place you envisioned before the worlds were formed. In one way, Edgewood is the center of the world: I can go from Edgewood to any place on the globe. Jesus told His disciples to go, from Jerusalem (the center of their world) to Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world. No place was to be neglected. Every place was then, as it is today, important to you, a God concerned with the places of the world. For the next few days, I will pray for this wonderful place, our Jerusalem.

Father God, you created the place where The Church of Joy was formed. From the words of your mouth Edgewood was brought forth. Out of the dust of the earth you inhabited this place with people formed in your image, created by your own hands. You know this place well. It is ever before your face. Now I call out to you for this place. Today, you have called me to be Your mouth, Your hands and Your feet in this place. Fill me with your holy presence and send me out to serve this place with the same Spirit that the Lord Jesus had when He came to serve and give Himself to others. There truly is no greater love.

Day 14 March 17, Tuesday

Lord God, I call out today on behalf of the place you have called me. The greater Edgewood area is well known to you. You know this hill, these lakes and streams. You see the trees and

parks, our homes, buildings and churches. You recognize every feature, nothing escapes your notice. Your eyes are ever on this place. I ask your continued protection on this place and a hedge of safety around the inhabitants, both residents and the homeless. I pray that you will bless this place and make it a place characterized by health, wellness and industry, a city of safety and peace. Make our church a place of refuge, a hospital for the spiritually ill, a lighthouse for those lost in the sea of contemporary culture who desperately need to find their way to you. Lord, make our church a blessing to our community, our Jerusalem, and then help us to minister even unto the ends of the earth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Day 15 March 18, Wednesday

Dear God, I ask your blessing on our city. As you have left the church an example of service in washing the disciples' feet, may we be known in the community as a church that serves the needs of the community. The church that cares like God cares. Give us a compelling vision of what we can be in you. I ask that you help us be responsible stewards of the gifts, talents and treasure with which you have entrusted us. Help us to also be sensitive to the ecological and biological needs of this region. Help us protect the animals and the wildlife that you have sovereignly given us dominion over. Show us how to wisely conserve and use our water and natural resources. Help us creatively answer the needs of our community and empower us to be a part of the solution and not just part of the problem. For it is in the Name of Jesus that I pray. Amen.

Day 16 March 19, Thursday

Dear Loving Father, as you have reached out in love to me, please help me to reach out in love to the people of this place. Help the community of Edgewood to see love in me and your church and respond to this irresistible force. Help me to first love you most of all and then to follow though in

obedient love to serve others in the house of faith. As people try to figure out the confusion of multiple denominations and religions, may they see the reality of our Love, shed across our hearts because you first loved us. Help people to see how we love one another and realize that this expression of love is unique, true and valid. Let it be said of us, "See how they love one another."

Day 17 March 20, Friday

Lord God, I ask for continued love of this place, my brothers and sisters in the faith and the people of my community. May I love not only the loveable but the unlovely. Change my heart, first, dear Lord, and create a new spirit within me. May I seek to love all with the gracious, unconditional love of Christ. Help me in love to reach out to the needy, lost and forsaken people in this community. Help me to remember that once I was lost, but by your love and grace, I am now found in you complete, lacking in nothing, accepted into your family forever, into a world with no end. I love you, Lord.

Day 18 March 21, Saturday

(Today we begin our adventure in the Lord's Prayer. For the next few days we will pray the prayer and internalize it for our church, our community and ourselves. The prayer has been called, "The disciples prayer" because it was given as a template to the disciples. Our Lord prayed His High Priestly prayer, for us, His disciples, as recorded in John 17. That chapter is actually, "The Lord's Prayer.")

Dear Lord, you were asked by the disciples to teach them to pray. I also want you to teach me and help me pray more effectively. May the words formed in my mind and the meditations of my heart be pleasing and acceptable in your sight. Thank you for opening a way into the holy place where I can receive help and find mercy in time of need. I love you, Lord. I am yours. Help your

church to come together and truly be your people. Help us to lean on you and learn from you. Give us insights into this familiar prayer and provide us a hope and a future as we continue our adventure in you, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 19 March 22, Sunday, The Lord's Day

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy Name. Our Savior taught us to address you as our Father. What a marvelous title and relationship we have in you, our Father. You made us and you bought us back. You sit on the throne of Heaven above all powers and all rulers and all principalities. Yet we have access to you through the blood of your son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In prayer we are transported to that spiritual place, yet that very real place, where you have established your Kingdom rule. Your Son not only allowed us to address you as "Our Father" but also revealed through the Spirit that your Name is hallowed, that it is Sacred, Blessed, Consecrated, Sanctified and above all, Holy.

I approach you, Holy Father, in this forty days of prayer, that you would hear my prayer and grant me the requests that I petition in the authority of the Name of Jesus Christ.

Day 20 March 23, Monday

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Our Father, we look forward to, no, we long for the day that your Kingdom will be established forever without the influence of the world, the flesh and the devil. We know your Kingdom has been established from everlasting to everlasting, and that Your will and purposes are never thwarted or frustrated in any way. Lord, we are also patently aware that we are involved in a cosmic struggle, that our warfare is not against flesh and blood but the spiritual darkness in high places. As your children and ambassadors, we ask that you will protect us, strengthen us and fight for us; that we would put on the whole armor of God and stand against the evil one. We long for that day when you will return and set all things right and

rule with righteousness. While there are still many who need to hear and respond to the gospel, we say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Day 21 March 24, Tuesday

Give us this day our daily bread. Father we realize that each day has concerns and needs. You told us not to be anxious about tomorrow but to focus on the moment, to live one day at a time, close to you, in your joy and peace and love. We are needy people. Like the children of Israel who collected the manna in the wilderness for 40 years, we your children ask that you feed us each day of this forty-day adventure in prayer. We also realize that we need more than physical bread to survive, we need the bread of heaven to nurture our souls and replenish our spirits. You know of what we need even before we ask, yet you allow us the privilege of entering your Holy palace and requesting that you grant our daily needs. Help us to distinguish between needs and wants, and truly give us the desires of our hearts as our hearts are set on you. We want what you want for us, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else, in Jesus' Name.

Day 22 March 25, Wednesday

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Trespasses, debts, sins; all these words are translated from the teaching of our Lord Jesus on forgiveness. You have forgiven us of all our sins, past, present and future, and in our Lord Jesus Christ we are clothed in righteousness and holiness, as if we had never sinned. Such a marvelous salvation, such grace and mercy, that Jesus would die for our sins. This Good News is almost too good to be true. Yet we know it is true and that we are forgiven, finally and forever. Because we are forgiven we have the opportunity to extend that forgiveness to others. In fact, our forgiveness even seems to be based on the fact that we forgive others. As we forgive others, you have the freedom and opportunity to forgive us. Help us not take this relationship between forgiveness and for-

giving lightly, like the unforgiving servant in the parable (Matthew 18:21-35). May we walk today in the freedom of forgiveness; help us to forgive others and, if necessary, to forgive ourselves. Thank you for this great salvation! Amen.

Day 23 March 26 Thursday

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Lord we know you do not tempt us but you do allow us to be disciplined for our good because you love us as your very own Son. Help us to avoid the temptations that the evil one puts in our path. Help us in your spirit to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil and put to death these deeds done in our own earthly power. Keep us from the sin of selfishness and seeking my own thing to the detriment of other brothers and sisters and the testimony of our Lord Jesus and the reputation of our church in the world. As you permitted Job to be tested and tried, we pray that in our trials and tribulations that you will deliver us with your mighty strong arm. We know you are able to save to the uttermost. Your arm is not so short that it cannot reach us, nor is it weak that it cannot rescue us from all evil, even the self-inflicted kind. Lord, whatever we are going through today, you see and understand and it does not take you by surprise. Rescue us and save us and deliver us from evil, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 24 March 27, Friday

For Thine is the kingdom, and power and glory forever. AMEN. Holy Father, our Lord Jesus Christ reminded us that our prayers were always heard by you. That nothing escapes your notice and all things work together in your plan, for the good of those who love you and are called according to your purposes. Today we are reminded that you answer our prayers with only two responses: "Yes", or "I have a better plan." Because you are sovereign over all and have all power

and authority, we know that whatever we ask of you, you hear and you are able to answer, even our most fleeting prayer. We know that whatever answer you give is for our good. It is so wonderful to rest in this blessed assurance. You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords and beside you there is no other. Yours is the Kingdom and power and glory forever. AMEN.

Day 25 March 28, Saturday

Dear Lord, very soon we will be celebrating your triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The prophets foretold that one day the King would ride through the Eastern gates. You proclaimed on that day, your eternal right to the throne of David, the throne of the kingdom of God. Today that gate is walled up, closed and sealed for the day you return in glory and great power. Lord, may our hearts be open and not closed to what you want us to receive this Easter season. As you came once into my heart when I prayed the sinner's prayer, come again Lord Jesus in power and glory. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart and help me focus my thoughts on you, that in all things you may have the preeminence. Amen.

Day 26 March 29, Sunday The Lord's Day

Today is the day. It is your day, Lord, and I realize that all I have is today. Yesterday is a memory, tomorrow literally never comes. I live and move and have my being in the space-time continuum of the present. Today is the day of salvation. I need to do good today, while it is called today. Lord, help me abandon myself to your purposes today. Guide me with the prompting of the Holy Spirit, to act, to speak, to love in such a way that Christ is seen in me. May I trust you fully today. May I love more completely today, not reserving or holding anything back for a tomorrow that never arrives, Lord help me to boldly go full throttle into this day; no holding back, no turning back. Make me confident, courageous and audacious in my expression of your transforming power in my life that all the world may see you living in me. And when they see, may they ask. Help me to be ready to give an answer for the amazing hope that I have in you. Amen.

Day 27 March 30, Monday

Today, Lord, I intercede for my family, loved ones, relatives that do not know you or are not walking with you in newness of life. I lay before you my "apple seeds." My heart is broken for those closest to me and I pray that you would give my relations the opportunity to hear again the good news of the gospel. May they hear, understand and receive the salvation that you freely offer. And, Lord, as I pray for my dear loved ones, I am struck with the knowledge that every person is my neighbor, friend and even relative. We are all your creation, we are your children, sons and daughters of Abraham. So I pray today for the people in my sphere of influence. I intercede for them as though they were my own family members. Help me to reach out in love to my community of friends, that Christ would be seen in me. Help me to be ready to give an answer to the hope I have. Lord, I pray for a harvest of souls. I know the time is getting short and my work will soon be over. Until that time, Lord I plead for the souls of boys and girls, of men and women who are unaware of their future state. Lord, please save my friends. Plant seeds in their hearts that will bloom into eternal life. I boldly ask this because I know you are not willing that any should perish. I lift up those you put on my heart and pray for your special touch in their lives today. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 28 March 31, Tuesday

Heavenly Father, I desire to start this day, with you on the throne of my life, with you taking control of every situation. Please, let my decisions today be guided and prompted by your indwelling Holy Spirit, help me to not lean on my own understanding, but in all my ways acknowledge you. Teach me and guide me in the paths of righteousness. Fill my heart with your love, joy and peace. So consume my heart that there is no room for anything that is displeasing to you. I love you, Lord, and I

ask that you will help me to love others as you have loved me. Bless me to be a blessing to others. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Day 29 April 1, Wednesday

Lord, today I pray for leadership at Edgewood Church of Joy. Thank you for the many people throughout the years that you have called and equipped for leadership. Your church needs leaders who are willing to serve. Protect your church from leaders who have their own agenda or seek to have things their way alone. Give us gifted and skilled leaders who will help us do your work decently and orderly, as is befitting your name. Let us have forward thinking visionaries who will help us grow into the people you want us to be. Create the vision within us to see new areas of service and ministry for our community and our church. Help us to be wise stewards of the funds with which you have entrusted us, and help us never to make decisions based on finances alone, but to seek first your leading as we know your provision will follow your vision. Thank you, Lord, for our leaders both past and present and those yet to be revealed. Amen.

Day 30 April 2, Thursday

Dear Jesus, today I pray for growth at Edgewood Church of Joy. I ask for spiritual growth of the saints, both young and old, and for numerical growth. I ask for new families with babies and children that we can nurture as a church body and train the families in scriptural principles. Help us to be ready for this influx of new life; help us to be welcoming and willing to babysit and to support these families. Help us not be suspicious of new members but trusting and loving. Help us to influence these families for eternity. May Edgewood Church of Joy not be a dysfunctional family but a holistic family seeking hard after you and your kingdom.

(When I wrote the last line of this prayer, I had music on in the background and a woman began to sing, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." I take this verse as both a principle and a promise. May we seek Him first and He will add to our fellowship. Amen! Pastor Mark

Day 31 April 3, Friday

Lord, we are nearing Holy Week. We remember, we celebrate and we commemorate the events of the next week. This next week is the week of history that changed the world. It has changed my world forever. Thank you, Lord, for so great a salvation. Thank you for the witnesses and martyrs who worked so hard that I might receive the gospel in my own language. May those who come behind me find me faithful with your Good News. May I be faithful in carrying out the mandate of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. May I seek to deliver this message in my own Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world. May I seek to live out my passion for Christ in my family and the marketplace. May I be found faithful to our Lord and Savior regardless of ridicule or persecution. Come again, fresh into my life this week and strengthen my spirit and my resolve to follow you all the days of my life, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 32 April 4, Saturday

(We are one day away from the Triumphal entry commonly referred to as "Palm Sunday.")

Lord, as tomorrow is Palm Sunday, I pray that you would continue to soften my heart and make it receptive to the things of God: to the things that are close to your heart. Teach me, Lord, and help me walk in Your way. Soon, I will be reliving your last week. As I come alongside your passion, may I understand the fellowship of your suffering and let you continue to conform me into your image.

Help me not just be a Christian, but a true follower, even if that means I go through the valley of the shadow of death. Open my mind and heart to be receptive to the things you have for me this next week, and help me to be the person you made me to be. I love you Lord. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Day 33 April 5 Lord's Day Palm Sunday.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Today, Lord, I rejoice with those in the first century who saw you enter Jerusalem on the colt. I toss down my coat and give you the "red carpet" treatment, because you alone are worthy to take the throne of your Father. Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Today, you are revealed in Power and Great Glory. Today should be your coronation day, but instead of a crown you will receive a cross. No person truly grasps the magnitude of your plan, even your closest friends do not understand. How grateful I am that, today, you have revealed the truth, so that I can know, understand and act in the knowledge of the Son of God. Help me to walk in the reality of the knowledge that today. So many years ago, God walked among us to show us the way home. Lord, help me to communicate this Good News with my friends and neighbors. May your Holy Spirit convict hearts and prepare them to hear the gospel. Use me, Lord, as your ambassador; use your church as your ambassadors. Be near to us this holy week, I pray, and prepare our hearts for what you have prepared us to receive. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 34 April 6, Monday

(In the next three days of this Holy week, we are going to pray for the pillars of our community, as well as the systems that God has created for our benefit, encouragement and safety; the social, the commercial, the church, and the family)

Lord, today I pray for the social institutions of schools, government, police, fire safety, and military. In this day of extreme budget cuts, our community is experiencing dramatic loss of essential services. I pray for our schools, that our children would be safe and would learn vital skills for being good citizens. I pray for our local government, the council and the mayor and ask that you help them make wise decisions. For our police chief, Lord, protect him and bless him, and all the officers and volunteers who work in the department of public safety. I pray for all the firefighters and the people who support this system. Thank you, Lord, for a culture that contains these pillars, these supports of our society. May we never take them for granted. Bless all those who serve our country and community in various capacities, and may they know the wonder and awe of working alongside of you as they serve others, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 35 April 7, Tuesday

Father today I pray for business owners, stores, places of commerce and places of employment. I thank you for the industries and companies that provide goods and services as well as pay taxes to support the societal structure. We need these pillars of our society to be strong and vibrant if we are to survive and grow. Today, the economic climate of our nation and our city are in peril. Jobs are at risk and our industrial infrastructure is in danger of imploding with excessive governmental regulations and practices. Lord, I pray on behalf

of all those who work in this arena, that they may not serve at the altar of consumerism, but serve because you have established and honored work and industry. Provide relief for the employer and the wage earner and strengthen this pillar I pray. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 36 April 8, Wednesday

Lord, today I come to you again on behalf of our families and our church family at Edgewood Church of Joy. Lord, today I pray for unity and love within our church. Help us to walk in the freedom of forgiveness, and lavishly give grace to one another as you have taught us (and shown us by your very example). Help us to serve one another, support and pray for one another and to become the people after your own heart. May it be said of us, "See how they love one another." Lord, you are a relational God and you have established the relationships of marriage and the family. I am blessed by the gift of these relationships. I thank you for marriages, partners and families. You use these relationships to grow us and form us into your image. It is no wonder that today, as in times past, marriages and families would be under attack from the enemy. We see families broken apart by all sorts of sin and sadness. Families are also under attack by our own government, whose policies and decisions are not conducive to encouraging the family unit as you purposed it. Even in our own state, dear Lord, we have seen marriage redefined to be something you never intended it to be. Today, I pray for my own family of origin, my family and the families in our community of Edgewood. Lord, protect families, protect marriages, protect children and the aged and protect and welcome the person in our community who does not have family nearby. Be strong on behalf of these institutions as they represent your family, your creation, your people, your possession. Amen.

This is prayed in Jesus' Name, through the power of His resurrection. Amen.

Day 37 April 9, Thursday

(Today is often called, "Maundy Thursday" from the word, Mandate or command. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet he gave them, and us, and new command that we should serve and love one another.)

Lord, you gave us all an example and a command at the Last Supper. I want to be a faithful disciple, fully following you in all I say and do. Help me to humble myself and serve others. Help me to fully love the people you died for. May I learn to be the servant of others and a friend to all. I need your indwelling Holy Spirit to empower me to follow your example of service and love. On this Maundy Thursday you also established Communion to be observed in every place Christians meet down through the ages until you come again. Lord, help me to be looking with expectancy for the return of my Great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Come Lord Jesus, come! (Maranatha.)

Day 38 April 10, Good Friday

This day is called "Good Friday." It is good because you, Oh Lord, are the good and perfect sacrifice for our sins, yet it was not good that you were tortured and died. This is a dark Friday in many ways because it meant the end of your earthly ministry as the Son of God. It was also the day that you experienced the sin of the world and the only time in all of eternity that the Father turned His face away from you. Those things are not in and of themselves "good." Yet you do work all things together for good. It was good that on that day you died to set the captives free, and one of them was me. Your death marked the beginning of the end of the reign of the prince of this world and the final defeat of our enemy the devil. Your death and blood spilled out opened a way into the Holy place for all the saints. Your broken body healed our souls. You wrote in red the new covenant, which will forever be the new agreement between a Holy God and His human creatures. Thank you for entrusting us with the reality of the "rest of the story." Amen.

Day 39 April 11, Saturday

On this Holy Saturday of the most Holy Week, the world is silent. In the stillness, your disciples waited. Today Lord, I pause and linger between Good Friday and Easter morning. In a larger way, I wait for the fulfillment of your promise to return to earth and take those of us who are alive and remain to be caught up together with you in the air. While the world is experiencing Spring, new life and the promise of harvest, I wait, not only for Easter, but for your bodily return in power and great glory. Teach me to wait expectantly, doing the work you have given me to do. Help me to invite others to hear the message of Easter morning. And Dear Lord, may tomorrow at Edgewood Church of Joy be a time of resurrection, when the dry bones of our fellowship are revived and you begin a new work until you come again. I ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 40 EASTER MORNING APRIL 12

Hallelujah, what a Savior! He is RISEN; He is RISEN Indeed! Up from the grave you arose, triumphant over sin and death. You live forever and you have put all things under your feet. Oh holy and wonderful day! The day that sealed my pardon, that set the captives free. The day that, for so long was waited for in faith, now I receive in faith as I look back through the corridor of time. Blessed Jesus, how wonderful, how marvelous; how few words can express my gratitude, awe and wonder at your power and grace. Thank you for Easter morning, the dawn of the resurrection, for it is in the event of this holy day I am revived, bought, loved, sealed, pardoned, transformed, filled, adopted, gifted, and given eternal life. Blessed Jesus, thank you for your finished work, established for all time, on our behalf. Thank you for the opportunity to share these 40 days of prayer with my brothers and sisters. Lead us now into this next year, mighty in prayer and power, the power that raised the dead, the power of the resurrection. In Je-

sus' precious and holy name I pray. AMEN!

Dear friend, thank you for taking this adventure in prayer with me. If God has spoken to your heart through these 40 days, would you mind dropping me a note and sharing it with me? My heart's desire is to help people grow in their walk with the Lord and come to maturity in Him. If this prayer pamphlet has been some help on your journey, I would love to hear about it. Thanks—

Pastor Mark

II Peter 3:18

Notes and Prayer Requests:

Notes and Prayer Requests: