

## Encounter 2020 Prayer Guide – Pathway Community Church

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup> - Day 1.** Our theme for the 40 Day Prayer Challenge is “Encounter.” Please take time today to seek God’s presence and submit your agenda to His divine agenda. For the next seven days, let’s focus our prayers particularly on the areas of **confession** and **intercession**. Ask God to search you and bring to your mind all sins, both already known to you and unknown to you. Seek His forgiveness and determine to repent and return to obedience. That may seem like a cliché but is a powerful and necessary process! Pray **Psalm 139** over your life: *“<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup>Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life”* (NLT).

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - Day 2.** Let’s continue to seek the Lord’s forgiveness. Pray **Psalm 51**: *“<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. <sup>2</sup>Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night”* (NLT). God has promised to forgive us when we confess honestly before Him. Forgiveness is also important between us and others. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Is there anyone in your life you need to reconcile with before you continue with the prayer challenge? Do all that you can to ensure you are blameless before God and in your relationships with others.

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - Day 3.** As well as confession, a particular area of focus during our first week is intercession, which will also continue throughout our 40 days. Intercession is coming before God on behalf of someone else. To broaden the scope of our prayers, nine categories have been provided in the prayer challenge sheet: personal prayers, prayers for family, for salvation, for Pathway, for the United States, for mission and church planting,

for other nations, for the persecuted church, and for the poor and vulnerable. Write down in each category how you can be praying, and what exactly you are seeking the Lord to do in each of these areas and situations.

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - Day 4.** Reflect on the words of Matthew 6: *“<sup>7</sup>Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”* What have you been desiring and asking for? Does it align with what you know of God’s nature and holiness?

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup> - Day 5.** Do you write down your prayers? What can we learn from the example of Habakkuk: *“<sup>2:2</sup>Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. <sup>3</sup>For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay”* NIV). Write down what you believe God is saying to you today. Capture all the burning petitions on your mind by putting them in your prayer journal or notebook. Be sure to review regularly to see how God is answering your prayers.

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> - Day 6.** Pray Psalm 20: *“<sup>1</sup>In times of trouble, may the Lord answer your cry. May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm. <sup>2</sup>May he send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>May he remember all your gifts and look favorably on your burnt offerings. <sup>4</sup>May he grant your hearts desires and make all your plans succeed. <sup>5</sup>May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God. May the Lord answer all your prayer”* (NLT). Continue to spend time in quiet, waiting to hear what God is saying to you today.

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> - Day 7.** As we prepare to begin our fast tomorrow, reflect on the example of Daniel.

From Daniel chapter 9: 3 *“So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: ‘Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws’ ”* (NIV). God is great is awesome, and has kept his covenant and all his promises. Remember to always include worship of God for His greatness and all His attributes in your prayer and worship. Next, Daniel confesses for the sin of the entire people of Israel – we also can confess on behalf of our families, Pathway, and even the nation of the United States. Continue to confess and repent before God of all the ways we have sinned before Him, even as American people.

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup> - Day 8. [Fasting Day 1].** Fasting is one of the most powerful Christian disciplines through which the Holy Spirit can transform our lives and also invite God’s favor towards issues concerning our communities and nation. Fasting is not easy and requires self-discipline. We need to be deliberate to remain faithful through the duration of fasting and plan for increased time in prayer. When we pray and fast, we can expect increased intimacy with God and a deeper clarity of His will and desire for our lives. Prayer and fasting increases our conviction towards sin, righteousness and judgment and breaks the power of sin as God purifies our attitudes, cleanses our bodies and souls. Prayer and fasting results in a profound personal change, breakthrough for difficult personal, church and national issue (Joel 2:12-14).

One way to do this is to take one meal per day for the fasting period, and dedicate the time for meals to extended time of prayers. During the fast, you may feel somewhat weaker than normal; you may feel tired, irritable or even get head-aches. Lightening your work-load and cutting down on strenuous exercises is advisable to maintaining your health and morale. Drink plenty of water (at least 6-8 glasses per day). If you have any long-standing illness of physical condition that may be affected by fasting, or if you are currently on any medication, please consult your doctor before committing to this fast.

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Day 9. [Fasting Day 2].** Fasting is also a good idea when you are facing a major crossroads or decision in your life. If you are facing a major decision, bring that decision before God during this fast. In Acts 13:2 *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”* (NIV) Determining who would serve in the early church was done through prayer and fasting. The church leaders in Antioch relied on fasting to determine who would be sent to bring the gospel to new areas and plant new churches, leading to the selection of Saul (or Paul) and Barnabas. As you are fasting, ask God to reveal His direction, guidance and wisdom for any major or minor choices you are facing.

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - Day 10 [Fasting Day 3].** Matthew 11:28-30: 28 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* Are you feeling

burdened and tired? Commit yourself to the Lord Jesus and He will refresh you and give you rest.

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup> - Day 11 [Fasting Day 4].** Zechariah 4:6-7: 6 So he said to me, *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.* 7 *"What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"* Ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will enable you to do exploits for God wherever he places you.

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Day 12 [Fasting Day 5].** 1 Peter 5:6 *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* 7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* Today go before God and humble yourself in his presence. When you learn to be humble, God will exalt you and open doors for you.

**Feb 29<sup>th</sup> - Day 13 [Fasting Day 6].** Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Pray that you will be full of the Holy Spirit. This will enable you to seize the opportunities to reach out to the people around you. Pray that you will be a bold witness of Christ and his saving grace.

**Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Day 14 [Fasting Day 7].** Galatians 5:22-25: 22 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* Pray that the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be manifested in your life. Pray that you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Pray that you will always be in a close

relationship with the Holy Spirit and that He will guide you in everything that you do.

**Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> - Day 15.** Please take time today to pray for the church. Pray for growth and health in all of our ministries: Bible Study groups, youth, children, outreach, Parenting Class, Ladies' ministry, Board members, worship, service planning, media, sound and set-up. Pray that God would grant us favor in all that we do. We desire genuine discipleship and transformation, beginning with each one of us and extending to all the neighborhoods of Fremont and beyond. Let's pray Col 3:17 over all of our ministries as a church: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

**Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> - Day 16:** We continue to pray for the church. Pray specifically for growth in numbers, that God would bring more people especially youth and families. Pray for our children, youth and all of our families in church. Pray that this year many will come to faith and that we will have baptisms.

Pray for the Rooted discipleship program as we plan to launch that people will join in and study. Pray for our outreach programs at Ohlone and Thornton Junior High School. Lift up Pastor David and his team, and that they would be renewed and strengthened. We pray Deut 31:8 over the church: *"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

**Mar 4<sup>th</sup> - Day 17:** Acts 2:46-47 *46 "Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my Name, there I am with them."* From the earliest days of the church, God has been present when

believers gathered. The early church had a hunger both for God and community. Pray that God will create a hunger for Him in the hearts of the people at Pathway and its surrounding. Let us pray for our small groups, that as they meet they will experience God and their numbers will be added.

**Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – Day 18:** 1 Corinthians 12: 27 *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. The Body of Christ is a wonderful image that Paul used while writing to the Corinthian Church. It gives us the message that we each have a unique, God-given purpose and part to play in the Church. Pray that God would show you the role He wants you to play in the Church.*

Take time to write down your gifts and passions. Ask God how you can develop them and use them to bless others and build His church.

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – Day 19:** Ephesians 2:19-22 *“<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”* We are part of the global church/body of Christ. Take time to pray for the GHC churches and the global church at large. Let us pray for growth and for revival. Pray that many would come to Christ and join the global Church.

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup> - Day 20.** Political Leadership. Romans 13:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-4. 1. Pray that leaders in America would lead with meekness, justice and excellence. 2. Let’s pray that God will supernaturally influence the decisions of our leaders so that it benefits the ordinary citizens and promote peace. 3. Pray for mutual respect

and love among the national leaders, the opposition party and the ordinary citizens. 4. Pray for harmony and peace among the three branches of government: Legislature, Judiciary, and Executive.

**Mar 8<sup>th</sup> - Day 21:** Education & Training sector - 2 Chronicle 17:7-10, Daniel 1:3-4; 18-21. 1. Let’s pray that God will give education stakeholders and policymakers the wisdom needed to design good policies that will elevate the education sector to an appreciable level. 2. In this light, let’s pray for a kind of education that informs the heads, mode the minds, and transform the hearts of the young people. 3. Let’s pray for more funds aims at supporting education and training in America. 4. Let’s pray for teachers and lecturers that God will give them wisdom and courage to do their jobs. 5. Praise the Lord, His mercy endures forever.

**Mar 9<sup>th</sup> - Day 22.** Matthew 19:26 *“Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”* What are you trusting God for as you pray? Is it the salvation of loved ones, healing, provision...? Remember that God is not limited by anything and have this attitude of faith as you come to him in prayer.

**Mar 10<sup>th</sup> -Day 23.** 1 Thess. 5:16 -18 *“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”* Are you tempted to give up? Keep going! Mother Teresa once said that she couldn’t imagine doing her work for more than 30 minutes without prayer. We need to rely on God’s abilities and wisdom every minute of every day to accomplish the tasks before us and they way to do this is by constantly being in prayer, wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

**Mar 11<sup>th</sup> -Day 24.** Matthew. 4:4 *“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

What is it that possesses your thoughts as you go through the day? What is it that takes you out of prayerfulness? Whatever it is, it is something that we need to fast from, even as we fast from food! Be it texting, television, sleeping, letting defeating thoughts control you, etc. At the place of prayer let the Lord prune the habits, desires and ambitions that would hinder all God has for you.

**Mar 12<sup>th</sup> - Day 25** 1 Timothy 2: 1-4 *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."* Today take time to pray for others; lift up our leaders to the Lord and ask God to turn their hearts to himself. Pray that they have the wisdom to govern justly and soundly, ask God for his influence in their lives both personally and publicly.

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup> - Day 26.** As we continue in prayer, we desire to dedicate all of our goals before the Lord in prayer. Following a process of prayer and deliberation, we desire more adults to be connected and belong in our congregation by December 2020. We also seek to establish more Small groups, and get people go through Rooted discipleship experience. We thank God for the on-going Bible Study groups, and continue to pray they would be well rooted and established. Our focus at Pathway is never just for people to fill up chairs, but to be active in ministry service, and our target is to empower at least 75% of our members to serve. Please pray Psalm 25:4 over our goals: *"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths."* May God continue to reveal His will and His agenda for us as a church as we go through 2020.

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup> - Day 27** Other goals for us to pray over include engaging a ministry champion to

lead every ministry department. To advance God's kingdom all over the world, we encourage and support potential missionaries to launch out from Pathway. Another goal we have set for this year is the Alpha evangelistic program, which is a way to inviting our friends and networks to find salvation. Pray that in all that we do, we would be on the Lord's side and joining in what He is already doing: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain"* (Psalm 127:1).

**Mar 15<sup>th</sup> - Day 28** We celebrate what God is doing through this 40 Day Prayer Challenge, and will continue to devote ourselves to pray throughout the rest of the year in Sunday Services, monthly evening prayer meetings, and other periods of communal fasting. May we as Pathway always exemplify righteousness and advocate for the poor and vulnerable. One of the ways to exemplify this will be serving lunch at Abode. Pray Amos 5:24 for our church: *"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"*

**Mar 16<sup>th</sup> - Day 29.** We dedicate our children's ministry to the Lord today. We desire to disciple more children every Sunday by the end of 2020, mobilizing and training more Sunday School ministry associates to do so. Let us continue praying for a Children's and Youth Ministry Director who will lead this ministry. We also pray for new believers and baptism classes for the older children. May God call many children to salvation this year! Pray Mark 10:13-16 over our children, that they would come to Jesus and inherit the kingdom of God.

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup> - Day 30.** Thank God for all He is doing in your life, and in the life of our church. What have you heard from God during this fast? Have you experienced any breakthroughs or answers to prayers? Have you learned more about God or yourself during this time? Ask

God to continue to reveal Himself to you, and to give you the persistence to continue in prayer as long as it takes. Thank God for how good He is, and for His love, faithfulness, mercy, grace and all His blessings. May Psalm 34:8 be your portion today: *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*

**Mar 18<sup>th</sup> - Day 31.** Psalm 143:10. *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."* Today let us pray for our youth ministry, for growth, health and impact. Our desire is for the young people to worship together each Sunday in our service. We are seeking to facilitate discipleship through a teens service and small groups and baptisms. Another object we have is for our teen service to foster and maintain genuine community with the adult church. In addition to worship and fellowship externally, we are setting out to engage in active outreach to Thornton Junior high schools and Ohlone Community College.

**Mar 19<sup>th</sup> - Day 32.** For this year, we believe that God desires us to push much more in our evangelism and outreach to our communities. We pray that God will open doors for outreach, and soften hearts as He draws people to Himself. Ask the Lord to open our eyes to see the opportunities for outreach in the Bay Area. What are the chances you have in your daily life to share the message of salvation? Pray for divine opportunities, and for courage and boldness to invite others to Christ and see lives changes through the power of the gospel. For anyone you know who hasn't accepted Christ as their savior, pray Acts 26:18 for them: *"to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

**Mar 20<sup>th</sup> - Day 33.** Today let's pray for the spread of the gospel around the world. Christianity has spread very widely, especially

in parts of Africa, America, and Asia, but has still not reached many areas. Praying for the launch of a church planting movement in Japan, since Japan is one of the most unreached countries in the world, and is also a very open country – it is not Muslim or Communist, and doesn't have the barriers that many unreached countries have. Pray for the strength and health of the church in China, both government and underground churches. Pray also for revival in the 10/40 window, the area between the 10th and 40th degrees north latitude, basically North Africa, the Middle East, India, and parts of China and southeast Asia, that has the majority of the unreached people of the world, but only a small percentage of Christian missionaries and finances. Continue reading and researching as you pray for countries and ministries outside of America. Dedicate them to the Lord, and pray for their boldness and courage.

**Mar 21<sup>st</sup> - Day 34.** Let us continue to pray for America. Let us pray that this will be a country that Worships and honors God. Pray that the unchurched will find a church and the Post Christians will come back to faith. Throughout history, Americans have gone to different countries as missionaries and have spread the Gospel, pray that God will raise missionaries to America to reach to the unreached here. Pray for peace in our country, security, for economic for stability, and for the upcoming elections. We pray for our leaders: for the President and Deputy President, for Senate members, civil servants, and all those in leadership over our country. Ask for God for wisdom in all the choices we are facing as a nation: Proverbs 11:14 – *"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."* Ask God to reveal other areas in this nation in need of prayer, and to disclose His will and desires for our future.

**Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> - Day 35.** Matthew 9:37-38 <sup>37</sup> *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."* <sup>38</sup> *Ask the Lord of the harvest,*

*therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

The harvest is God's domain. He is the harvester and He says in His Word that people are ready and hungry to hear about Him, there are just not enough people to tell them. It is our responsibility to go to the field and harvest. God is not looking for our ability but more our availability and heart. It is amazing what God can achieve in and through us if we seek Him with all our heart, pray, be ware of the Holy Spirit and be open to be used. Ask God to show you how you can be part of sharing the gospel, in your family, work, neighborhood, country and other nations. Petition God for people to respond to the Gospel. Thank Him for the harvest we see now and what is yet to come.

**Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> - Day 36.** Hebrews 12:1-2: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."*

Jesus is our example. He lived a sinless life and because of him we can access that forgiveness and the ability to run the race God has set before us unencumbered by sin and the cares of this world. As we ask for fresh forgiveness every day and determine to live in proactive forgiveness, we must also determine that we will not let distractions, selfishness, poor self-control or other sins to distract us from running the race ahead of us.

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup> - Day 37.** Colossians 4:2 says *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."* That's the NIV, and the ESV says this: *"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."* This has the idea of devotion, commitment, being focused and continuing in the prayers you are making. Don't give up.

Even as we approach the end of this season of 40 days of prayer, we must continue to push ahead in our prayers, and in our dependence on God. Wait on God to direct your prayers, and listen to what God is telling you as you pray.

**Mar 25<sup>th</sup> - Day 38.** Psalms 40:9-10 *"I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, LORD, as you know. <sup>10</sup>I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly. A heart overflowing with gratitude and thanks results in praise. When we pray and experience God moving and answered prayer, our natural response is praise in gratitude, which in turn creates an opportunity for further prayer to God and praise! Thanksgiving brings glory to God and makes Him known. Yet, even in difficult times gratitude has power. The expression of gratitude and thanks to God magnifies His majesty and power. As we bring our attention to His sovereignty, whilst still remembering what He has done for us, our faith is stirred up and our hope for what is to come is increased. Give thanks to the Lord for what He has done and write down what you are thankful for since we began this challenge.*

**Mar 26<sup>th</sup> - Day 39.** Acts 16:25-27 *"<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup>The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. This is an incredible story of the power of praise and worship. Bringing praise and worship to God reminds us of His power and authority, and positions us in a place of submission and awe. It diminishes the power of sin and darkness over our lives, and brings attention to who God is*



and not only to what he can do. As we draw to the end of our challenge, take some time and worship God regardless of whether your prayers have been answered.

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup> - Day 40.** Luke 18:1-8. Let's celebrate reaching the final day of our 40 Day Prayer Challenge! How have these 40 days been for you? Take time to go through your journal and highlight the prayers that God has answered. Also highlight the messages you felt the Lord was communicating to you.

Do you have any testimonies of answered prayers during this time? Please send any testimonies you would like to share to [david@pathwayfremont.org](mailto:david@pathwayfremont.org).

This is not the end but rather the beginning of our ongoing commitment to completely depend on God through prayer. Keep praying and don't give up!