

24 Hours of Prayer Oceanside October 2025

Instructions for those praying at night in Oceanside:

Starting at 7 pm on Friday, October 10, until 8 am Saturday, October 11, the front doors to the church will be locked. Please end your prayer time in the lobby by moving from the Prayer Room to the lobby for the final five minutes of your hour. This way, you can let in the next person/group to pray. Likewise, it might be wise to start the first five minutes of your prayer time in the lobby so you can let in anyone who comes up to five minutes late.

Instructions for those praying at Oceanside:

We have a way for people to join you online. In the prayer room, you will see a TV and a computer. This is an open meeting room, so people can join you at any time. Please greet those who join you online and help them participate as if they were in the room with you.

:00-05 = Welcome & Overview

Read aloud the parts in blue, do the parts in black.

Thank you for joining me for this hour! As a church, we're praying for 24 solid hours for three reasons:

1. To unleash God's power over our ministries during the final months of this year.
2. To learn how to pray in community.
3. To learn how to pray for an hour.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked the Disciples, "Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour?" (Mt. 26:40). Serious Christians throughout the ages have taken this a challenge to learn how to pray for an hour.

Why should church members pray?

As we start, let's remind ourselves why it is so important for church members to pray for our church. Here are five passages that tell us why. Let's each read one of them out loud:

(1) *I call on you, God, because you will answer me... Psalm 17:6*

(2) ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

(3) *Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24*

(4) *They were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. Acts 1:14*

(5) When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31

An Example of Prayer:

As we wait for one or two more to join us for the hour, let me read you the story of a man who changed his nation through prayer: John Knox.

John Knox was born in Scotland about 1514. So he was only about three years old when the Protestant Reformation started in Germany in 1517. Converted to Protestantism from Roman Catholicism in 1543, Knox lived when it was often very dangerous to be a follower of Christ. When the Roman Catholic Mary Tudor (also known as “Bloody Mary” because of her ruthless persecution of the Protestants) became queen in 1553, Knox, who was in England at this time, was forced to hide. He eventually landed in Geneva, where he met John Calvin, who became his mentor. Knox returned to Scotland in 1559, the year after Queen “Bloody Mary” died and was succeeded by the Protestant Queen Elizabeth. He remained in Scotland, bringing reformation to the church until his death in 1572.

Today, people remember Knox as the leader of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland and the founder of Scottish Presbyterianism. But what others don’t realize is that by the end of his ministry, he became more well-known for his prayer than for his other ministries. The devout Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have said, “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe.” Why do you think the Queen said this? Well, because she saw the impact of Knox’s prayer. From a human point of view, it was the prayer of Knox that sparked the Reformation in Scotland. His prayer became the fuel of the ongoing reformation during his time. His prayer shook the land of Scotland, causing a revival among God’s people.

Perhaps of all the prayers of Knox, “Give me Scotland, or I die” is the most quoted one. It was not an arrogant prayer but a passionate plea, showing his intense desire for the conversion of the people of Scotland. His prayer was an expression of his great confidence in God. One of Knox’s mottos was “one man with God is always in the majority.” His prayer also echoes the Apostle Paul’s prayer in Romans 10:1, “my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” I wonder if we have the same desire for our fellow countrymen. When was the last time you prayed for your country like Knox did for his? Do we sincerely pray for our fellow countrymen’s conversion?

Knox remained prayerful even to death. During his dying hours, “he was much engaged in meditation and prayer. These words were often in his mouth: ‘Come, Lord Jesus. Sweet Jesus into Thy hand I commend my spirit. Be merciful, Lord, to Thy Church, which Thou hast redeemed. Give peace to this afflicted commonwealth. Raise up faithful pastors who will take charge of Thy Church. Grant us, Lord, the perfect hatred of sin, both by evidences of Thy wrath and mercy.’”

[By [Brian G. Najapfour](https://biblicalspiritualitypress.org/2019/10/22/give-me-scotland-or-i-die-john-knox-as-a-man-of-prayer/), from <https://biblicalspiritualitypress.org/2019/10/22/give-me-scotland-or-i-die-john-knox-as-a-man-of-prayer/>]

Overview:

Here's what we're going to do to fill up our hour of prayer. We'll pray different types of prayers, we'll change our posture, and we'll even change our location throughout the hour. During these next 60 minutes, we're going to pray in several segments. We'll (1) Worship, (2) Confess, (3) Thank, (4) and Intercede [or "Supplicate,"] (a) for our ministries, (b) for our Halloween, Christmas, and January invitations, (c) for our leaders, and (d) for each other. Some of our prayers will be together, others alone, and the last, in pairs. We'll pray using the acrostic *ACTS* – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

:05-10 = Adoration/Worship

The difference between adoration and thanksgiving is, we *worship* (or "adore") God for *who He is*, whereas, we *thank* God (thanksgiving) for *what He's done*.

Take a minute to think of all the character qualities of God....

Now, let's Worship and Adore Him by completing this sentence with one of those character qualities. Use this sentence as your pattern for the next five minutes: "Lord, I praise You because You are _____." For example, "I praise You because You are perfect." Or, "wonderful." Or, "because You are my king." Let's fill up the next five minutes using this sentence over and over again, each time with a new character quality of God.

:10-15 Confession (silently, by yourself)

For the next 5 minutes, we'll be doing some confessing. To "confess" means to "agree with." We're agreeing with God about things we've done wrong. It could be awkward to confess your sins out loud, so we'll do this section in silence.

Why should we confess? The Bible says,

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened... Ps. 66:18

What happens when I confess? The Bible says,

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

A good prayer to pray while you're silently confessing is Ps. 139:23-24:

Search me, God, and know my heart;

test me and know my concerns.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me;

lead me in the everlasting way.

As you confess silently, ask the Lord:

"Is there anything I have done lately that I need to ask You to forgive?"

"Is there anything, if it came to light, I would be ashamed of?"

“Is there anyone I need to apologize to?”

Write your confession(s) on a 3x5 card, seal it in an envelope and place it at the foot of the cross. We will dispose of all the cards at the end of the 24 hours.

:15-20 = Thanksgiving (out loud, together)

In ancient times, when you entered the Throne Room of the king, you'd start by thanking him for the things he had done for you, your family, and your village. You'd tell him how great he is (that's *Adoration*), then settle anything you might have done that offended him, (that's *Confession*), then you'd thank him for the things he's already done for me (which is *Thanksgiving*). Only after doing all of those would you ask him for the things you wanted him to do for you (which is *Supplication*).

So let's spend 5 minutes thanking our King, out loud, as a group, for the things He's done for you, your family, our church, and our city. Here are some examples. We've had:

- Great moments of worship
- Unity in the Spirit
- Wonderful staff and pastors
- Significant progress in our “*Your Kingdom Come*” 2-year initiative
- 700+ salvations
- Baptisms
- New members
- Life Groups
- Fed many people through our *Food Pantry*.
- Cared for many through our *Stephen Ministers*.
- Attendance is up 10% over last year.
- Many new babies have been born.
- Many new friendships have been formed.
- Our Preschool, Promiseland, Living Loud, and Mosaic are all thriving.
- The *Play Kingdom* is drawing many visitors

What else?

:20-40 = Praying for our next 4 months of ministry

A little learning: Here are five tips for praying in a group -

1. **Single subject:** Try to keep each prayer to a single subject so others can add to it.
2. **Short** prayers, like a conversation. (No more than 3-5 sentences at a time.)
3. **Simple** words, so nobody feels unworthy to pray.
4. **Specific** prayers, so God can answer specifically, and our faith can grow.
5. **Silence** is okay.

Pray for these requests:

1. That 1,228 come to Christ this year.
2. 180 baptisms this year.
3. That each New Songer will live in the grace we've now learned.
4. That newcomers are drawn to join the church during this season.

5. The expansion of our Preschool.
6. New volunteers for every ministry of the church, our Children's and Youth Ministries especially need more servants.
7. The remodel of our Venue Room.
8. For our Oct. 11, Nov. 8, & Dec. 13 *Jesus Burgers* outreaches.
9. For plenty of volunteers and many guests at our Fall Festival (Oct. 18 in Carlsbad) and Halloween Festival (Oct. 31 in Oceanside).
10. That every New Songer will be able to invite a friend to "This is Christmas" services (Dec. 7 in Oceanside, Dec. 14 in Carlsbad).
11. For January, *Growing Great Families* series (3 weeks, we'll mail postcard invitations).
12. *Living Loud* (weekly Wed. Kids Ministry)
13. *Mosaic Wednesday Nights*
14. *Momco* (every other Thursday morning).
15. *Life Groups*
16. *Sunday Services*

:40-45= Pray for the people we each will invite to join us

Write your name on the top of your 3x5 card, then write the names of 2 to 7 unchurched friends you'd like to invite to one of our *This is Christmas* services. (Think, "FRANCE:" Friends, relatives, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, exercise buddies.) When you've prayed over your card, pass it to your right, and pray for the card of the person to your left. Keep passing until you've prayed for every card in the group. Then, keep that last person's card and continue praying for them throughout the campaign.

:45-50 = Pray for our leaders

Pray for our Pastors and Directors

Pray John Knox's prayer for our cities, "Give me Oceanside & Carlsbad, or I die!"

Pray for our country, national leaders, state leaders, and local leaders.

:50-60 Pray for each other's needs

Break into pairs, share one personal request, and pray God's blessing on each other.