



Orienting to God

A CBWC COLLECTIVE PRAYER INITIATIVE

LEADERS' GUIDE FOR CORPORATE PRAYER



INTRODUCTION

We are so glad you are joining us, the people of our CBWC churches, in praying together to listen to God's voice, to discern, and to create space for His Spirit to lead us. This guide will help you integrate the Orienting to God CBWC Collective Prayer Initiative into seven worship services from January 9 to February 20, 2022.

Please note that a Small Group Guide is also available for midweek gatherings as a supplement. This Small Group Guide and all other resources mentioned in this guide are available on our website: cbwc.ca/orienting-to-god/

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE INTEGRATION

#1 - Introduce the congregation to the initiative. Ideally this is done before January 9, however it could be done on January 9 just before engaging the Week 1 content. Here are two suggestions for introducing the initiative to the congregation.

- Show the [Orienting to God: About this Initiative](#) video to help frame the purpose of our collective prayer.
- You may want to emphasize the difference between praying **in** the church and praying **with** the church. Praying with the church means praying the same things together, which is different than praying in the church where we pray for individuals and our own individual needs using our own words.

#2 – Lead the congregation through our collective prayer during your worship service each week. Here are the recommended steps:

- Briefly intro the Orienting to God Prayer Initiative and highlight why we are doing this.
- Read the Scripture passage for each week (available in each week's PowerPoint presentation).
- Show the appropriate week's video (available in each week's PowerPoint presentation or as a direct download from Vimeo). If this is not possible, you may choose to read the transcript of the video instead. Each transcript is available in the [description of the video itself, on Vimeo.](#)
- Invite people to pray together, reminding them that they are praying the same prayer with many CBWC churches. Lead the congregation in the corporate prayer time, following the prompts in this guide, which correspond to the prompts on each Powerpoint Presentation. There will be parts for the prayer leader, for the congregation as a whole and also spaces for people to pray specifically into the words just prayed.
- As a part of your prayer time, you may also invite people to share aloud what they sense the Spirit is doing or saying.

MID-WEEK SMALL GROUP INTEGRATION

There is a simple Small Group Guide which can be used following each of the seven week's corporate prayer times (i.e. Week 1 Corporate Prayer Time, followed by the Week 1 Small Group Time, and so on).

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND QUESTIONS

We'd love to hear from you as you pray and discern so that we may collectively hear God's heart for his kingdom and people in the days before us. If you have any questions about the prayer initiative email Shannon Youell at syouell@cbwc.ca

We will also be posting the video for each week on our social media accounts to create a space for shared interaction across the CBWC family. Join us in sharing your stories of God's work in us as we pray:

INSTAGRAM: [@cbwcpx](https://www.instagram.com/cbwcpx)

Facebook: [TheCBWC](https://www.facebook.com/TheCBWC)



Week 1 - Lord, Teach us to Pray

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-15 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 1 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer, using the “Collective Prayer” portion of the slideshow or by printing this page for each congregant.

Leader: Gracious God of all heaven and earth, teach us to pray—all of us—how to pray collectively.

All: Teach us to pray from a posture of humility, repentance, expectation and hope. As we seek **Your** heart and mind, transform **our** hearts and minds towards accomplishing Your will.

Leader: We pause to listen. Lord examine our hearts and reveal where we must humble ourselves.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

All: God, search our hearts and reveal the ways in me, in us, that are counter to Your ways. Pour out Your grace, Your forgiveness, Your healing in those areas. Let us receive the gift of forgiveness You offer.

Leader: Father, we ask for Your healing in our land, in our own lives and in our witness to the world of who You are.

All: Transform us, Lord, more and more to be Your salt and Your light within the brokenness and struggles of one another, and also in our hurting, fragmented world that longs to find the peace that is only found in You.

Spirit, in the days ahead, reveal to us as individuals, as church communities and as CBWC collectively “how then shall we pray” beyond these seven set-aside weeks of prayer.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



Week 2 – Our Father in heaven, make Your name holy

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and Micah 6:8 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 2 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: Our Father in heaven, make Your name holy.

All: As we pray collectively, we pray Your Spirit would draw all people to Yourself so that the world may know You as our Father.

We come with grateful hearts that You call us Yours, and we can call You ours. We belong to You, and we belong to one another as Your beloved children.

Leader: We pause to offer our gratitude to God who is our Father.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

Leader: Our Father...

All: We pray that You would teach us to love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength. Transform us to increasingly reflect You in our fragmented and hurting world.

We ask You to pour upon us Your Spirit of wisdom and revelation as we join in Your work in the world as You “bring all things in heaven and earth together” under Christ.

May we make Your name holy as we reflect You by acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with You our God and Father. May You be honoured by the way we live.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



Week 3 – Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 146 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 3 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: Our Father who is in heaven, holy is Your name. We pray Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

All: We cry out for Your kingdom to be revealed in our hearts and in our world. Align our will with Yours, O God.

We cry out for Your justice, peace, love, mercy, and goodness to overflow into our human brokenness. These are signs of Your kingdom breaking into and being present in our world.

We pray for healing and restoration. For provision and grace. For salvation and hope. For goodness and mercy.

Father, as Your love and justice—Your kingdom—breaks into the brokenness of our present age, our present circumstances, challenges and struggles, we pray that Your name receive glory and honour for the blessings of Your kingdom in our world. We pray that people wide and near will see the goodness of God in the land of the living and turn to You and Your rule and reign here on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: We pause to ask the Spirit to reveal to us how and where You are at work around us. We listen to hear how we can join You in that work.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen



Week 4 – Give us today our daily bread

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25:31-46 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 4 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: Our Father in heaven, holy is Your name. We pray Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

All: Turn our hearts and hands to Your concern to the needs of humanity: for food, water, air to breathe, water to drink and shelter from the elements, for work, and for rest.

Proverbs speaks wisdom to us to not shut our ears to the cry of the poor, for then we too will cry out and not be answered. (Prov 21:13).

Leader: We pause to ask forgiveness where we have not heard the cry of the poor, the needy, the oppressed.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

Leader: Our Father...

All: Grant us wisdom and revelation in our own habits, needs and wants. We take more than we require while others do without. This is a hard thing, Lord. We have become accustomed to *much*. Transform our hearts, our lives and our actions to be satisfied with *enough* so there is enough for others.

Change our wants to Your wants. Remind us daily that the sacrifice of laying down our lives for the sake of others is what gives us life: working with You as ministers of reconciliation.

Leader: *We pause and listen to where You, God, need to transform our hearts, habits, needs and wants to align with Your desires.*

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



WEEK 5 – Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 18:21-35 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 5 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: Our Father in heaven, make Your name holy. We pray Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

All: Father, sometimes the thought that You have forgiven us is overwhelming, for we know our own hearts and minds. Thank You that Your compassion and Your mercy are new every morning toward us and the world You love. Thank You that, through Your love, forgiveness is both possible and actual.

Forgive us Father, where we, the Church, have caused harm to others both by what we've done and what we haven't done. Forgive us where we have put our own interests and desires ahead of Yours, believing we were doing Your will. Now hear our silent prayers of repentance.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

Leader: As we experience the liberty of receiving Your forgiveness of our sin against You, enlarge our capacity to forgive others in the same way.

All: Teach us to examine our own lives, words and actions as individuals and as the Church, before examining the lives, words and actions of others. Help us pray for others rather than judging others, in the same way we would pray for ourselves. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



WEEK 6 – Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 6 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: Our Father in heaven, make Your name holy. We pray Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

All: Father, when we find ourselves tested, help us resist falling into temptation that causes us to put our own priorities and self-preservation ahead of Your kingdom priorities.

Leader: We pause to ask God to reveal where our priorities serve us rather than God's kingdom.

Allow a short pause for people to pray quietly.

Leader: Lord...

All: Help us to not sin when we are tested in trial, feel defensive, or don't like or approve of what is going on in our world. Rather, despite all our weaknesses and faults, show us Your way through the valleys of shadow to the light of Your goodness, mercy, compassion, hope, love, and peace. We pray for guidance for our souls, protection from evil and deception, and for lives increasingly reflecting Your kingdom. We pray not our will be done, but Your will be done, as You enact redemption, reconciliation, and restoration in us and in the world around us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



WEEK 7 – AND SO WE PRAY...

CORPORATE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read Exodus 20:1-17 together from the “Scripture Reading” section of the slideshow.

ORIENTING TO GOD VIDEO

Watch the Orienting to God Week 7 Video, from within the slideshow or via vimeo.com/showcase/9076669

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Lead your congregation in prayer. Use the “Collective Prayer” in the slideshow or print this page for each person.

Leader: *Our Father in heaven, make Your name holy. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.*

All: Lord, teach us to not just pray this prayer, but to live this prayer out in our hearts, our minds and our strengths. Let us, the Church, be the people who shine the goodness of Your character, Your will for humanity, into the places where darkness dwells and threatens to overcome us: in our hearts, in our words and deeds, in our self-righteousness and pride, in our unforgiveness and judging of others, in our power structures, in our pursuits of our own priorities, and in our trials and temptations.

Leader: *Let this prayer, Jesus' prayer, teach us to love as You love.*

All: May Your kingdom come and Your will be done in all the earth, in us and through us, as we join You in Your work for the healing of the world.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.