

A Prayer for Sunday's Worship Service

Dear God, this Sunday, you will again call us together as a congregation to worship you. Thank you for the incredible privilege we have each week of gathering as one family in your holy presence. Thank you that each Sunday, you call us into dialogue with you: You speak words of life to us, and we respond in praise, gratitude, and obedience. Let us be renewed in Christ this and every Sunday as we worship you, that we may live lives that please you in every way (Colossians 1:10), and that the light of Christ may shine ever more brightly in our homes, workplaces, community, and anywhere in the world you may send us.

I pray that by your Holy Spirit, you will work and move in power in our midst during the upcoming worship service. I lift up my brothers and sisters who are serving you in music ministry this Sunday. Help them to sing and play with joy in their hearts, as unto you, and not as unto people. Empower them by your Spirit to prompt us to look up to you, and to "make your praise glorious" (Psalm 66:2). May our worship be such that those in our midst who do not yet know Jesus may be moved to declare, "God is really among you!" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

I pray for all those involved in technical ministry. Help them to serve you with heart and soul, motivated and energized by love for you and passion for your church. Enable them to be "invisible" in their technical ministry, enlisting their technical skills so that all eyes and ears will be on you, and you alone, dear Lord.

I pray for those who drive the equipment truck and are involved in setup. Give these dear people an extra blessing for taking on a mostly unseen job, but one without which our worship services would never be able to happen. Cover them with blessing and protection this and every week, and give them great satisfaction in their service to you.

I pray for the pastor who is preaching this Sunday. Work in and through him, speaking straight into our hearts with nothing less than the convicting, motivating, and life-transforming power of your Holy Spirit. Help me, and help all of us, Lord, to be not only hearers of your Word, but doers as well (James 1:22-25).

I pray also for the greeter, usher and refreshment teams, Lord, asking that your hand will be with them to serve the congregation and our guests, welcoming others as Christ has first welcomed us (Romans 15:7), giving us the atmosphere in which meaningful relational connections can be made for Christ. I pray also that the whole congregation – me included– will see ourselves as hosts, and demonstrate the warm hospitality of Jesus to every newcomer and stranger who comes to our worship service this morning.

Last, but certainly not least, I pray for the church's children and youth. Bless them richly, Lord, as they learn and grow in their various Sunday school classes. And I pray your blessing on all those who are serving our children and youth this Sunday. Fill them with your joy as they so graciously sacrifice their own time in adult worship service, worshipping you instead through the loving service and spiritual nurture of our kids. Let them bear much fruit in their ministry for your glory.

And help me to think of ways and words by which I can show my appreciation and encouragement to all these, your servants, who do so much to enable our congregation to engage you in worship. And now, may the name of Jesus be lifted high in our corporate worship! In his name I pray, Amen.