FIRSTWATCH | December Prayer Guide

1. Invitation to Prayer (5 minutes) Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of prayer, asking for clarity and focus. Acknowledge God's presence and fully commit this hour to Him.

Spend a few minutes of this time singing or listening to one of your favorite worship songs.

2. Personal Praise and Adoration (5 minutes): Start by focusing on God's greatness and majesty. Praise Him for who He is and for His attributes: His holiness, power, faithfulness, and love.

Scriptures for Praise:

Psalm 95:6 "Come let's worship and bow down; let's kneel before the LORD our Maker."

Hebrews 13:15 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise- the fruit of lips that openly profess His name."

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for His eternal nature and His sovereignty over all creation.
- Thank Him for His character: that He is merciful, gracious, and worthy of praise.
- Reflect on God's works in your life—His salvation, provision, and protection.

3. Confession (5 minutes): Confession brings humility and healing. Take time to confess any sin to God, whether it be through omission, wrong attitudes, wrong actions, or disobedience.

Scriptures for Confession:

Psalm 51:1-4 "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me."

John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Prayer Points:

- Confess any sins that have created separation between you and God (whether in thought, word, or deed).
- Ask God to search your heart and reveal hidden sin.
- Seek forgiveness, remembering that He is faithful and just to forgive.

4. Thanksgiving (5 minutes): Thank God for His many blessings—His provision, protection, answered prayers, and His steadfast love.

Scriptures for Thanksgiving:

Psalm 50:15 "Offer a thanksgiving sacrifice to God, and pay your vows to the Most High"

Psalm 105:1-3 "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; proclaim His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell about all His wonderous works! Boast in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice."

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for your salvation in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Thank God for His faithfulness, remembering past victories and answered prayers.
- Thank God for First North, and the light it has been in our community for 140+ years.

Suggested Intercessory Prayer Topics

1. Our Church and School (15 minutes)

1 Corinthians 1:10 "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction."

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 "For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body-- so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and we were all given one Spirit to drink. Indeed, the body is not one part but many."

- **Our church through the period of transition that has begun-** Pray for our Pastor and Staff as decisions are made. Pray for Transition Team. That God's will would be done at First North in this season. Pray for our church body to be united and purposeful while we wait on God's perfect timing.
- **Our Music Ministry-** For the Band, Choir, and Orchestra as they faithfully prepare to lead worship for Christmas during Not So Silent Night on 12/12, and Come and See: NOEL on 12/13.
- **Youth Ministry-** that students will invite friends to Christmas events and respond to the gospel. That students will finish the school semester strong and not coast in their God-given responsibility in this season of their lives.
- **Children's Ministry-** for God to use the Christmas family devotions to draw the kids in our ministry and their families closer to their Heavenly Father this Christmas season.
- **SCA-** Pray for teachers and staff to have endurance in this busy time of year. Pray for them to rest and recharge over the break. Pray for God to guide the Administration as they seek God's will-- they are already deep into the decision making process for the 27-28 school year.

2. Our Nation and World (10 minutes)

1 Timothy 2:1-4 "First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

Psalm 33:12 "Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD-- the people He has chosen to be His own possession."

- Pray for wisdom for the leaders of our state and nation- president, governors, lawmakers, and judges.
- Pray for God's will to be done at every level of government. Declare your trust that He is at work, and His ways are the best, even when we don't understand them.
- Pray for a national revival, and that people would turn to God in repentance and faith. Ask the Lord to begin with you.
- Pray for those around the world and around the corner who are being persecuted for their faith. Pray for courage as they continue to love without compromise in the face of great opposition.

3. Lost or Unreached People (5 minutes)

2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

- Pray for those who do not yet know Christ, both locally and globally. Pray for God to send messengers.
- Pray for missionaries, ministries, and mission partners working around the globe to share the Gospel.

4. People Who Are Hurting (5 minutes)

Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

- Pray for those you know who are suffering physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
- Pray for specific individuals or groups who you know need God's healing and comfort.

Closing - Resting in God's Presence (5 minutes)

Ephesians 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before Him."

- End with a time of quiet reflection and listening to God. "Be Still and know that I am God." (Ps 46:10)
- Ask God to help you seek, follow, and serve the Lord during the Christmas season.