

FIRSTWATCH | Prayer *July* Guide

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." – Psalm 33:12

As our nation marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, we have an opportunity not only to celebrate our history but to reflect on God's faithfulness and renew our dependence on Him. As followers of Christ, our ultimate hope is not found in any nation, but in Christ and His Kingdom. At the same time, we thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans—especially the freedom to worship, proclaim the Gospel, and live out our faith openly. Use this hour to praise Christ, confess sin, thank God for His blessings, and pray for spiritual renewal in our nation.

1. Praise and Adoration of Christ Our King (10 min): Begin by fixing your eyes on Christ. Worship Him as Savior, Redeemer, and King over every nation and generation. Thank Him for His mercy, His rule over history, and the freedom we have in Him.

Thank Christ for:

- Salvation through His death and resurrection
- His faithfulness to His Church
- The freedom to worship and proclaim the Gospel
- His sovereignty over all nations

*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth...so that in everything He might have the supremacy. **Colossians 1:16-18***

*The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all. **Psalms 103:19***

2. Personal Reflection, Confession, and Repentance (10 min): Before praying for our nation, ask God to search your own heart. Confess sin and receive the forgiveness Christ provides.

Ask yourself the following questions as you pray:

- Have I trusted more in earthly security than Christ?
- Am I faithfully living and sharing the Gospel?
- Does my life reflect Christ's character?
- Am I praying with humility and hope?

*I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. **Luke 15:7***

*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***

3. Thanksgiving for Our Nation and Gospel Opportunity (10 min): Give thanks for God's kindness and for the freedoms we often overlook. Pray we use these blessings for His glory.

Take some time to thank God for these things:

- Religious liberty and freedom to worship openly
- Opportunities to share the Gospel
- Faithful churches across our country
- Those who have carried the Gospel to the next generation
- God's continued mercy toward our nation

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **Galatians 5:13***

*Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. **1***

Peter 2:16

4. Intercession for Our Nation and Its Leaders (10 min): Scripture calls believers to pray for those in authority. Ask God to lead our nation according to truth and righteousness.

Pray for our government and our leaders:

- National, state, and local leaders
- Wisdom, humility, and integrity in government
- Our judicial system to uphold justice fairly
- Protection from division and corruption
- Public servants to encounter the Gospel

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

5. Praying for Those Who Serve and Protect (10 min): Lift up those who serve our communities and nation.

Pray for God's protection, strength and wisdom for these who serve:

- Military members and their families
- Veterans
- Law enforcement and first responders
- Chaplains serving in public and military roles
- Believers serving faithfully in these areas

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. **Psalm 46:1***

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **Romans 12:1***

6. Spiritual Renewal and Gospel Awakening (10 min): America's greatest need is not political success but transformed hearts through Jesus Christ.

Pray for the following:

- Revival among God's people--- beginning with us at First North and even this Sunday. Come to worship this week expecting God to move in a mighty way!
- Churches to preach God's Word faithfully
- Christians to live boldly and love well
- Lost people to repent and trust Christ
- The next generation to follow Jesus
- More laborers for Gospel ministry

Close your hour by surrendering your life and our nation to Christ. Thank Him that while earthly kingdoms change, Jesus reigns forever and His Gospel remains our lasting hope.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **Romans 1:16***

...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14