

FALL 2024

Citizens of Heaven

A PRAYER GUIDE

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In the series **Citizens of Heaven: The Politics of Hope & Humility**, we want to reflect on how Jesus engaged his culture as we seek to best address ours in this divisive time. We want to invite you to the deep practice of prayer in this season.

This guide offers three environments of prayer.

First, the personal section invites you to your own prayer time to remind yourself of your citizenship in Heaven.

Second, in the last week of the series we have created a prayer guide for small groups. We encourage you to pray as a group throughout the series, but we wanted to dedicate the last group meeting of this series for prayer.

Last, corporately, we are providing a prayer for us to pray as a church together.

Our hope is throughout this series, you would refer to this guide.

It would become a prompt during moments of anxiety.

Ultimately, prayer reminds us of the power and sovereignty of God.

It also motivates us to live out the Gospel in how Jesus would call us to.

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1. Personal Prayer

- a. *A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis*
- b. *Meditation on Philippians 3:20-21*

2. Small Group Prayer

- a. *Psalm 146 (with accompanying prompts)*
- b. *Closing Prayer (from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, 2019)*

3. A Corporate Prayer



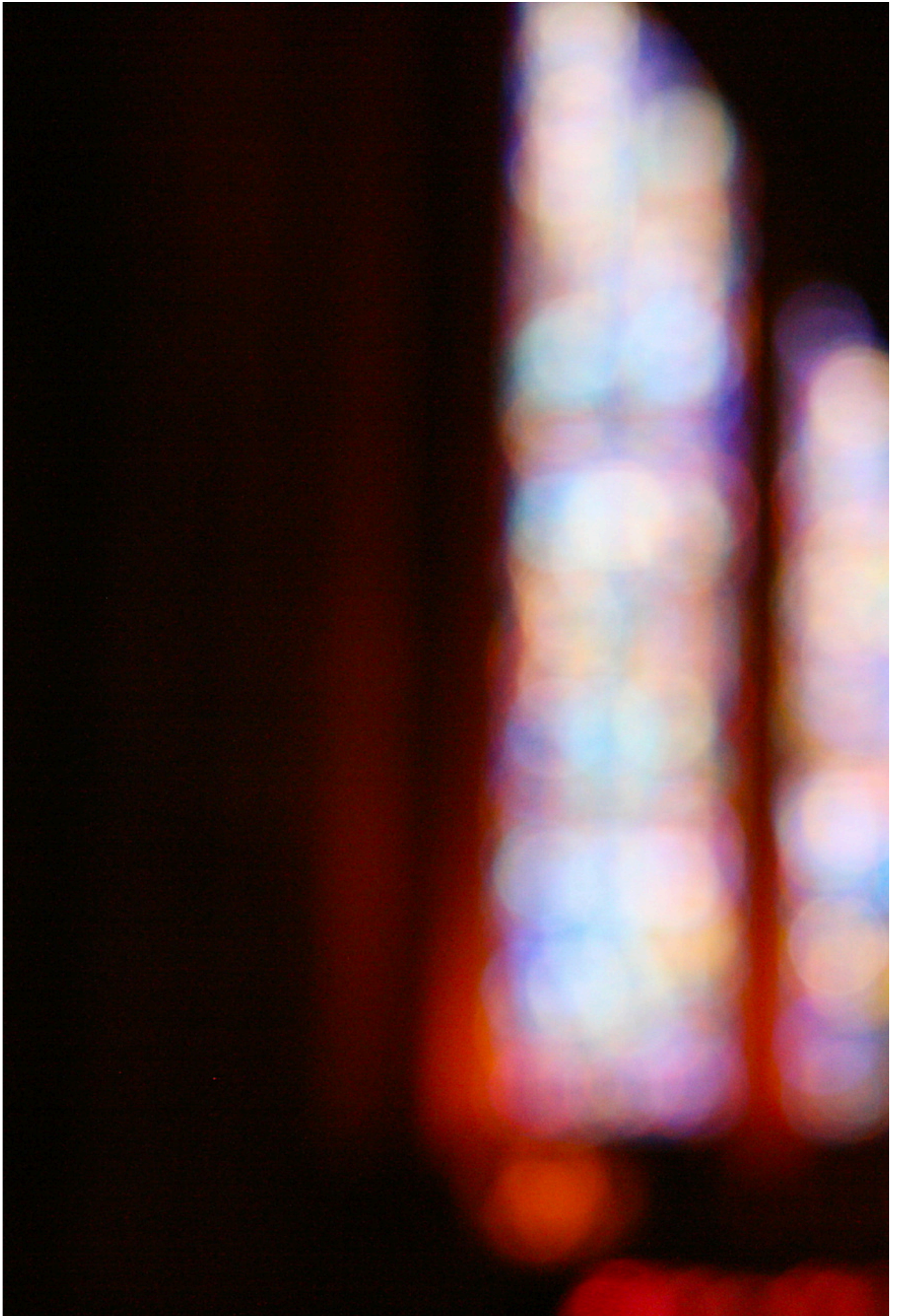
Personal

A Prayer attributed of St. Francis (BCP p. 833)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

During this season, meditate on Philippians 3:20-21:

But our citizenship is in Heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



Small Group

For the last week of the *Citizens of Heaven* series, we want small groups to pray together. Praying together unifies us during times of uncertainty. It also helps us focus on the values of **our** citizenship in Heaven. Pray through this guide in your group.

Read Psalm 146 as a prayer.

Before praying as a group, reflect personally on this prayer:

- How does this Psalm inform how you pray for the election?
- How does this prayer bring out the values of a citizenship of Heaven?
- What attributes of God can you worship in this Psalm?

Group Prayer – Pray together for the following areas:

- Pray for God's will
- Pray against the divisiveness the country
- Pray for revival in this season

Psalm 146

1 Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

2 I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Close in prayer with this prayer below:

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Corporate Prayer

We will use this prayer during the weeks of this series:

With great confidence in your kingdom,
may we have patience in persecution,
constance in compassion,
and be leaders in love.

At peace in your provision,
may we stand unshaken by words
meant to set us against
our neighbor.

May our witness be one of love,
a testimony that points to you,
even as each day,
we experience your mercies anew.

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BROWNCROFT COMMUNITY CHURCH

