

A BAYLOR UNIVERSITY PRAYER GUIDE

in preparation for the NATIONAL COLLEGIATE DAY OF PRAYER

In humble response to our Lord, and as hosts for the 2024 National Collegiate Day of Prayer, we, members of the Baylor community, choose to set aside time, both individually and corporately, from January 20 through February 29, 2024, as a 40-day season of prayer. Together we will recall God's mercy and kindness, ask for renewal and strengthening of faith, and seek wisdom and guidance that the Baylor community may faithfully reflect the light of the Gospel and shine forth the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Together we will offer thanks, express worship, and bring our intercessions before God's throne of grace.

Baylor students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are from all 50 states and almost every corner of the globe. We represent diverse cultures and heritages and a variety of faiths, and yet our paths have converged because of Baylor University. This is a historic moment for all of us. In a way never attempted before, we are joining together for the purpose of praying for this generation, and for the generations to come.

Regardless of how you pray, where you pray, or when you pray, we are calling upon this expansive latticework of relationships to "ask, seek, and knock" for the blessing of Baylor, and that Baylor would be a blessing to the world (Matthew 7:7-11).¹

In the spirit of Baylor traditions, this brief prayer guide is structured in four sections, recalling the four pillars that still stand at our original campus site in Independence, Texas. We have affectionately and playfully called these the "Bear Prayers," creating a memorable acronym with the letters. We also include references to Baylor's Alma Mater in italics – *That Good old Baylor Line*, lyrics by Enid Markham.

This guide is a way for us to gather with one heart in prayer in seeking wisdom, discernment and compassion that we may strengthen the spiritual continuity of the Baylor Line as we "*fling our Green and Gold afar to light the ways of time.*"

In and through this 40 days of prayer, may we each go deeper into communion with one another as we humble ourselves in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE BEAR PRAYERS



B

Be filled with the Spirit and the Word.



E

Engage our affections for others and cultivate empathy for the world.



A

Apply God's Word to every part of our lives, putting faith into action.



R

Resolve to shine the message of God's Kingdom in every area of our lives.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

-MATTHEW 7:7

¹ Scriptures from the Baylor NRSV Study Bible

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PILLAR 1: Be filled with the Spirit and the Word.

Lord, we desire to abide in You. We are thankful for the gift of faith, and for the truth revealed in Scripture of God's loving kindness for all people. Just as the lives of men and women are transformed as they experience Your living presence, so may we each be changed as we encounter You afresh today. Lord, we ask that Your glory be manifest in our midst. "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14).

Mindful of where we have been and where we now stand, Lord we ask for a spirit of humility and a willingness to reflect, repent, and be led forward in this season of prayer (Philippians 2:3). Lord, we repent for ways that we have fallen short in what we have done and failed to do (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2), and who declared, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37-39). To You, Lord, we pray humbly and yet boldly for a mighty move of God in this generation.

I pray the words of the well-known song:

As the Spirit was moving over the waters,
Spirit come move over us,
Come rest on us,
Come rest on us²

For the earth will be filled with the
knowledge of the glory of the Lord as
the waters cover the sea.

-HABAKKUK 2:14

Prayers and Intercessions:

- Teach us to abide in Christ, that we may bear much fruit, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:4-7).
- We bring before You individuals and departments on campus, and we pray for their blessing. Lord, may they shine so that all may see Your glory.
- Equip the students who will lead the times of music, testimony, and corporate prayer in the Collegiate Day of Prayer broadcast.
- Grace us with an unconditional commitment to the cause of God's kingdom, a complete openness to God and to the power of God's love, and a hunger and thirst for righteousness.³

Lord, we yield to Your will for our lives as individuals and a community, and we recall that the Lord who loves us says in Isaiah – Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1).

We join with those who came before us in the ancient prayer of St. Chrysostom (d. 407 AD):

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and has promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We would love to hear from you. Please click [here](#) to share a prayer request or a testimony of God's faithfulness in prayer.

² "Rest on us," Maverick City Music (<https://www.lyrics.com/lyric-lf/6129201/Maverick+City+Music/Rest+on+Us>)

³ F. Bauerschmidt, The Love that is God, Eerdmans, 2020.

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PILLAR 2:

Engage our affections for others and cultivate empathy for the world.

Lord, make us fully engaged – present and attentive, stirred deeply to care about Your purposes in the earth. Shape us in the cruciform love of Jesus. Lord Jesus, Son of God, form us in your image.

We stand in a “Good old Baylor Line,”—and we are part of a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1)—with the women and men of faith who are passing the torch to this generation. We recall that no one lives as unto themselves (Romans 14:7), and we remember that we are part of something much bigger, something eternal. Indeed, in Christ we will “march forever down the years as long as stars shall shine” as adopted sons and daughters, grafted into God’s global family.

We join with the psalmist in declaring, “Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty — and I will meditate on Your wonderful works. They tell of the power of Your awesome works — and I will proclaim Your great deeds. They celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness” (Psalm 145:3-7).

I pray the words of the well-known song:

Heal my heart and make it clean

Open up my eyes to the things unseen

Show me how to love

Like You have loved me

Break my heart for what breaks Yours.⁴

Prayers and Intercessions:

- Let us each know of our adoption into God’s family – that we are known by name and treasured in our uniqueness.
- Help us to cultivate habits of holiness, right ways of thinking and living as disciples.⁵
- Pray that students, staff, faculty, and administrators would all find a place of belonging in the local church body. We pray for our respective churches and their leadership, and we pray for the churches in Waco and Central Texas.
- Grant us a global vision to see Christ in others, particularly those who seem different, are unknown, and are in need.

Lord, we yield to Your will for our lives as individuals and a community, and we recall that the Lord who loves us says in Ezekiel – I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:26-28).

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We would love to hear from you. Please click [here](#) to share a prayer request or a testimony of God’s faithfulness in prayer.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you...

-EZEKIEL 36:26

⁴ “Hosanna,” B. Fraser (<https://hillsong.com/lyrics/hosanna>)

⁵ J. Comer, *Practicing the Way*, Waterbrook, 2024.

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PILLAR 3:

Apply God's Word to every part of our lives, putting faith into action.

Lord let us be not only hearers but also doers of the Word (James 1:22). Empower us to embody the light. Let us apply Your ways in all we do, serving particularly the vulnerable and those in great need. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and for the ways You comfort, empower and guide. Open our hearts and minds to be responsive to your leading. Grant us wisdom, insight, and courage to best steward the manifold gifts which have been entrusted.

I pray the words of the well-known song:

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to thee

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.⁶

Prayers and Intercessions:

- Remind us that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)
- Strengthen the ministries that have shaped our lives, and we ask for their expanded impact on campus, in our communities and the world.
- We pray that Baylor would be characterized by service and sacrificial care for others.
- Impart boldness and faith to aspire to do the greater works promised by Jesus (John 14:12) in living into the Kingdom of God.

Lord, we yield to Your will for our lives as individuals and a community, and we heed the words of the Apostle – "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We would love to hear from you. Please click [here](#) to share a prayer request or a testimony of God's faithfulness in prayer.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...

-JAMES 1:22

6 "Take my life, and let it be" C. Malan (<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/445>)

PILLAR 4: Resolve to shine the message of God's Kingdom in every area of our lives.

Lord, make us resolute and courageous in living our faith. As it is written, "Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Message). Shape our priorities, so that we keep first things first. As You say in Matthew, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consumes and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Lord, may Your kingdom be our dearest treasure, deepest joy, and boldest dream.

Open the eyes of our hearts that we too may look and see a time when all is made right and "... a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" before the throne knowing and worshipping God (Revelation 7:9).

I pray the words of the well-known song:

Come awaken Your people, come awaken Your city

O God of revival, pour it out, pour it out

Every stronghold will crumble; I hear the chains hit
the ground

O God of revival, pour it out, pour it out.⁷

Prayers and Intercessions:

- Enliven the Church as a beacon of hope to those in every nation.
- Grant us a greater perspective, a larger embrace, and a bigger vision for what lies ahead.
- Draw us near to those who suffer, and those who suffer for their faith. We join our prayers with theirs for peace and justice.
- Let the Gospel be proclaimed with love and clarity so that all may hear and believe.

Lord, we yield to Your will for our lives as individuals and a community, and we recall as it is written in Scripture – "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever (Ephesians 3:20-21).

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We would love to hear from you. Please click [here](#) to share a prayer request or a testimony of God's faithfulness in prayer.

... be resolute, and love without stopping.
-1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

7 "God of Revival" B. and J. Johnson (<https://bethelmusic.com/resources/god-of-revival>)