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FCFI Prayer Guide - April 2020

Jesus faced much opposition for His teaching from the very people, religious leaders, who should have been celebrating Him. He was betrayed by Judas, disowned by the disciples, crucified and buried. His followers lost all hope that He was the Messiah. After three days he arose from the dead and appeared to the disciples, confirming that He is indeed King over life and death. The long-awaited King had come. But His kingdom was different than expected. He came not to conquer nations but to conquer our separation from God the Father. He reigns in our hearts as we accept Him and until He comes again. Oh, what a Christ, Oh what a Savior! Oh, what a Lord!

- And when Jesus had finished saying all these things, He said to His disciples, As you know the Passover is two days away, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified, (Matthew 26:1-2). Jesus had been teaching in earnest because He knew His time on earth was short. We pray to be listeners of the Word. Please pray for all those in authority to make wise decisions battling the Coronavirus.
- 2. When He (Jesus) came near the place where the road goes down to the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! (Luke 19:37-38). The people lined the road, praising God, waving palm branches, throwing their cloaks on the ground before the colt that Jesus road on. They were sure liberation was close. Many of these same people would turn against Him in a week as they learned He is a Spiritual king and not a military king. We pray to be a people of praise!

Please pray for Herb and Mary from Catskill region of NY, Mary is losing her eyesight and Herb has heart problems. They are long time FCFI members and mission trip workers.

- 3. Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the Law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people, (Luke 22:1-2). The Passover required that all males 12 and over go to Jerusalem for the celebration, thus thousands were there at this time. We pray to be a people who celebrates our Christian faith. Please pray for FCFI with shows being cancelled due to Coronavirus as we won't be sharing the Gospel with so many. Please pray for shows to reschedule.
- 4. When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, He said, I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me, (Matthew 26:20). The disciples questioned themselves to see if they could be guilty. We pray to be a people of true repentance. Please pray for those who are sick with the Coronavirus.
- 5. Then one of the Twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you? So, they counted out for him thirty silver coins, (Matthew 26:14). Judas may have had a greedy desire for money and status that could not be realized if he followed Jesus. We pray to be people who see Jesus as the true ruler of this world. Please pray for the families of those who have the Coronavirus as they cannot be with their loved ones.
- 6. Then they went to a garden call Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, Sit here while I pray. He took Peter, James and John along with Him and He began to be deeply distressed and troubled, (Mark 14 32-33). Jesus knew what was coming and still He went voluntarily to the Garden. We pray to be a people who does the right thing. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones to death for any reason and cannot have proper funerals because of the Coronavirus.
- 7. He (Jesus), withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, Father, If You are willing, take this cup from Me, yet, not My will, but Yours be done, (Luke 22:41-42). Jesus spoke His dread of the coming events, but He also reaffirmed His commitment to do what God wanted. We pray to be people of commitment. Please pray for Italy and Spain!
- 8. While Jesus was still speaking (to His disciples) a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss Him but Jesus asked him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss, (Luke 22: 47-48). The kiss, a gesture of greeting, became a means of betrayal. We pray to be a people who are sincere in our acts of worship and service. Please pray that our country's economy can hold during these unprecedented times.

- We pray to remember we are no longer bound but are loosed to serve! **Please pray for small businesses.**
- 28. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, (Colossians 3:1-2). We change our moral and ethical behavior by letting Christ live within us, so that He can shape us into what we should be. We pray to be a shapeable people. Please pray that everyone in the USA will see the need to buy and support the USA.
- 29. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me, (Galatians 2:20). When we place our Faith in Jesus, He becomes our hands and feet and mouth. The things we do and places we go and words we speak should be a reflection of Him. We pray for forgiveness for the times we have failed to act Christlike. Please pray for those who have saved all their lives and now because of the decline in the Stock Market are losing much of their retirement funds.
- 30. Therefore, there is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death, (Romans 8:1). As Believers, ALL of our sins are forgiven. We do not have to live in shame and defeat for times we have failed to be perfect. Christ took our imperfections to the cross and we have been freed from condemnation. We pray to be a people who is so very thankful for Jesus' death burial and resurrection that we live our lives in a way that reflects His glory. Please pray for our churches to reach out to those in need outside the church walls.

Share Your Prayer Items with Others

Continue to send in specific prayer requests either to the FCFI office or to Mary Jones (Email: mdjones11@att.net, Text: 229-339-0126) by the 13th or 14th of the month so they can be included in the Prayer Guide for the following month.

Urgent Prayer Requests

Can be placed on the website prayer list page at any time, forward urgent, immediate attention prayer needs to Dennis Schlagel (email: fellowship@fcfi. org) at the FCFI office.

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- questions, and then to answers and often to belief. We pray to be gentle with those who doubt, hoping to lead them to acceptance of Christ as Savior. Thank the Lord for the grocers and all who keep the shelves stocked. Please pray we will ALL have enough toilet paper!!!
- 23. I'm going out to fish, Simon Peter told them, and they said, We will go with you. So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He said, Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish, (John 21:3,4,6). When the disciples' lives became total chaos after Jesus' death, they went back to the familiar. Jesus showed them they could not go backward but He would teach them to become fishers of men. We pray to be fishers of men. Please pray for those that will choose to rip people off during these troubled times, may their crimes be brought to light.
- 24. The third time He said to him, Simon son of John, do you love Me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love Me? He said, Lord you know all things, You know that I love you, (John 21:17). Jesus question Peter three times to make up for the three times Peter had denied Him. We pray to be a people who shows the love of Jesus to others. Please pray for the FCFI board and Area Leaders
- 25. Then Jesus came to them and said, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age, (Matthew 28:18-20). This is called the Great Commission and is spoken through the Holy Spirit to every Believer. We pray to be a people who accepts Believers from all nations. Please pray for those who were traveling and have been displaced during this season of sickness.
- 26. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us ALL our sins, having canceled the written code with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross, (Colossians 2:13-14). As we believe and accept Christ as our Savior, God has crucified the old rebellious nature and replaced it with a new loving nature. We pray to act like the new creations we are. Please pray for the brides and grooms who have had to postpone weddings or change plans.
- 27. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15). Christ seemed defeated at His death. At His resurrection He showed that He had defeated all powers and authorities...every one of them!

- 9. Then the detachment of soldiers and its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound Him and brought Him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year, (John 18: 12-13). Jesus faced Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod and back to Pilate...none could find fault in Him, even though there were false witnesses against Him. We pray to be a people of honesty. Please pray for our President and our Governors of each state as they make decisions for how best to contain the Coronavirus.
- 10. But they shouted all the louder, Crucify Him! When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. I am innocent of this man's blood, he said. It is your responsibility. All the people answered, Let His blood be on us and on our children. Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged and handed Him over to be crucified, (Matthew 27:23-26). Pilate's job was to maintain peace...he didn't believe Jesus was worthy of death but let the Jewish leaders have their way to maintain peace. We pray to be a people who stands for right...even though it may cost us. Good Friday. Pray that we would worship and spend time reflecting on this day.
- 11. It was the third hour when they crucified Him. Now, about the sixth hour a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. The curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom as Jesus called out with a loud voice, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit. When He had said this, He breathed His last, (Matthew 15:25, Luke 23:44-46). All nature mourned the crucifixion. The curtain in the temple separated God's presence from the people but with Jesus' sacrifice we are brought to God through Him. We pray to be a people who are humbled by Jesus's sacrifice. Please pray for those who have not accepted Christ as their Savior...now is the day of salvation.
- 12. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, Who will roll the stone away for the entrance of the tomb? But when they looked up, they saw the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side and they were alarmed. Don't be afraid, he said. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Go, tell His disciples and Peter, (Mark: 16:1-7). We are often intimidated by imaginary blockades (large stone). If we act any way we often reach our goal. The angel assured the ladies they were at the right tomb. Peter had denied Jesus as all of us have at some point in our lives

- so Jesus wanted Him reassured of the love- bond. We pray to be a people who share the Good News that Jesus loves them even when they are unlovable. **EASTER SUNDAY He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!**
- 13. When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons. Jesus said to her, Mary. She turned to Him and cried out in Aramaic, Rabboni! (Mark 16:9, John 20:16). When Jesus spoke Mary's name all of eternity was changed. We pray to be a people open to hearing Jesus speak to us. Please pray for those whom God is dealing with for service for His kingdom's glory.
- 14. Jesus said, Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am returning to My Father and your Father, My God and your God, (John 20:17). Mary wanted to hold on to Jesus to be sure He was real. He didn't want her to sit and do nothing. He wanted her to spread the Good News that He was and is alive! We pray to be a people eager to spread the news that Jesus conquered death, sin and the grave. Please pray for our families who are struggling for a new norm with children out of school and parents still having to work.
- 15. Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news, I have seen the Lord! And she told them that He had said these things to her, (John 20:18). Mary acted immediately. She didn't worry that it would be the wrong time, that she wasn't dressed good enough, that they may not believe her. She just went! We pray to be a people who do not make excuses about doing what God has asked us to do. Income Tax Due Date. Pray that those who are unemployed due to the Coronavirus are able to pay their bills and care for their families.
- 16. So, Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple also went inside. He saw and believed! (John 20:3-9). The men sat mourning Jesus while the women went to show their love by anointing His body. The men had a hard time believing Jesus had arisen. We pray for our faith to increase, even when things seem unbelievable. Please pray for our Doctors and Nurses and all in health care as they faithfully and fearfully put their lives on the line during this scary time.
- 17. Now that same day two of them (disciples) were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with

- them. But they were kept from recognizing Him. Later, when He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, (Luke 24:13-16,30-31). Jesus had risen and yet His disciples were going along as if it was just another day. We pray to be excited about what Jesus did on the cross and for the empty grave! Please pray for our truck drivers as they keep our shelves filled.
- 18. They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon. Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke the bread, (Luke 24:33-35). Again, Jesus showed Himself to those who had not believed He had risen. Jesus meets us at our point of need and faith. We pray to be people of unwavering faith. Please pray for families that are losing income and are living from paycheck to paycheck.
- 19. While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, Peace be with you. They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at My hands and feet. It is I myself. Touch Me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have, (Luke 24:37-39). Jesus' resurrected body was immortal. The same body we will have in heaven. We pray to be ready to rejoice and wait expectantly for our new body. Please, please pray for our farmers...many in the South are questioning whether to put in crops...can they get workers...we need them and they need us.
- 20. Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these, (Luke 24: 45-48). The Holy Spirit will open our eyes to the Scriptures just as Jesus did for His disciples. We pray to be people of the Word. Please pray for FCFI area leaders as they struggle to reschedule shows.
- 21. Again, Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. And with that He breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit, (John 20: 21-22). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit just as God had promised. We pray to believe greater is He that is within us that he that is ithe world. Please pray for enough medical supplies for our health care providers.
- 22. Then He said to Thomas, Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubling and believe. Thomas said to Him, My Lord and my God, (John 20:27-28). Doubts often lead to