

**Earle Street Baptist Church**

**Daily Prayer Guide**

*July – December 2021*

# the **GREATER** way



love GOD • love NEIGHBOR • make DISCIPLES

Matthew 22:36-40; 28:19-20

*The mission of Earle Street Baptist Church is to worship God (worship); to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed (missions); to be a home to all who would enter (fellowship); to minister to the needs of one another (ministry); and to assist in spiritual growth (spiritual growth).*

## FROM THE PASTOR

The year 2021 is a year of transition for our church as we continue to recover from the pandemic of 2020 and prepare for our centennial celebration in 2022. Ironically, the major disruption caused by the pandemic actually reminded us of what we value the most about our life together as a church. As Benjamin Franklin said, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." As we rebuild and re-group from the previous year and prepare for the year that awaits us, we have a lot of work to do. As my former pastor, Ansel McGill, used to say, "We must work as if it all depends on us, and pray as if it all depends on God." These are our challenges as we work and pray together. Each day, in addition to the prayer direction included in this prayer guide, consider making these requests a part of your daily prayers for this church we love so much:

- Pray that we will step up, step out, and step in to fill the volunteer vacancies that have developed over the past year. We need more preschool and children's workers for Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Vacation Bible School. We need more ushers for both services on Sunday mornings. We need more people to contact us and say, "I am willing to serve wherever I am needed."
- Pray that we will catch up on our budget giving to support the ongoing ministries of our church, and even designate generous offerings above and

beyond our regular tithes and offerings for the Sanctuary Renewal Project.

- Pray that we will be faithful in our participation in worship and Sunday School.
- Pray that we will be on mission where we live and work and play, inviting people to become engaged in the life of our church.
- Pray that we will be patient and cooperative when we are inconvenienced during our Sanctuary Renewal Project.
- Pray that our church will be a good steward of the resources entrusted to us.
- Pray for our Strategic Planning Committee, as the members of that committee lead us through "Our Journey in Faith" (celebrating our past, understanding our present, and embracing our future).
- Pray for our Centennial Celebration Committee as the members of that committee plan a series of events to celebrate our 100th anniversary as a church.
- Pray that our church will embrace the same spirit of faithful risk and adventure displayed by our spiritual ancestors as we move into our second century as a church.

Working and praying together with you,

*Stephen*

This daily prayer guide is offered as a way to encourage our church family to be unified in our daily praying, not as a substitute for our personal prayers.  
ESBC Prayer Team

## July

### Pray for Love That Forgives.

Love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

1. Father, sometimes it's hard for us to love others. You ask us to love those who hate You and do evil things. Make us merciful.
2. Lord, *You* love sinners, but we struggle to follow Your example. Please show us how to hate evil, but still love those who hate You.
3. God, help us remember that You loved us when we were Your enemy. Help us to reflect the compassion You have shown us.
4. Father, Your Son was beaten, mocked & crucified. You could have destroyed them, but You didn't. Fill us with forgiveness.
5. Lord, from the cross You said, "Forgive them; they know not what they do." Pure, perfect love. Fill us with that kind of love.
6. God, Your Holy Spirit is with every Christian, guiding us & changing us to be more like Jesus. Strengthen us to thankfully serve You.
7. Pray for our centennial: Help us know *how* we should pray. Help us prepare in ways that honor You, for *Your* glory.
8. Lord, help us to pray, for *others* & for *ourselves*, that we would desire *Your* will to be done in *all* our lives.
9. God, we want others to *know* You. Let their eyes *see* Your love; open their hearts to receive You. They need You so much; so do we.
10. God, Jesus said *love* your enemies; *pray* for those who persecute you. Matt.5:43-44 Enable us to love *them*, as Christ has loved *us*.

## July

### Pray for Hope.

May the God of hope fill you ... so that you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

11. Lord, You are the God of all comfort. When we suffer, you want us to cling tightly to You, because only You can bring relief.
12. God, You are our only hope. Only You are worthy of trust. You have promised to meet our needs, and Your promises never fail.
13. Lord, You know what we need before we ask. You have told us to trust you, even when life hurts. Strengthen our dependence on You.
14. Pray for our centennial: Grant us a humble spirit to seek *Your* will. Grant us wisdom to ask what *You* want ESBC to do tomorrow.
15. God, You told us we don't need to fear. You are able to deliver us from our fiery furnace - even from sin and death.
16. Father, Easter has come and gone. But You are still with us. You promised to never leave us or forsake us. Heb.13:5; Deut.31:6
17. God, one of our great blessings is knowing that right now, Jesus is interceding for us at Your throne. Rom.8:34; Heb.7:25
18. God, what an amazing gift, to know that Jesus prayed for us just before He was crucified, and He is *still* praying on our behalf.
19. Lord, we find only 1 prayer in the book of Proverbs; a man named Agur recognized he was unable to know You, unless You revealed Yourself. Help us see You more clearly. Prov.30:1-9
20. Pray for our centennial: Remind us to love one another as the Shaker hymn "More Love" echoes 1 John 4:20. If ye love not each other in daily communion, how can ye love God?

## July

### Pray for Comfort.

**This is my comfort in my misery, that Your word has revived me.**

Psalm 119:50

21. Father, strengthen us to walk so that others might recognize us as *Your* children. Eph.5:1; 1 Thes.5:5
22. Father, we are thankful that the book of Revelation reveals and unveils Your Son - the source of wisdom, truth, and every blessing.
23. Lord, You asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Matt. 16:15 It is the most important question anyone will ever answer.
24. God, if we know You, Your character and grace, we will love what You wrote to us in Scripture, and desire to follow You day by day.
25. Father, when we are desperate, we need hope. When we grieve any loss, or we face any suffering, we need Your mercy & comfort.
26. God, You are the God of hope, the Father of mercies & the God of all comfort. Rom.15:13; 2 Cor.1:3
27. God, in Psalm 55-56, David needed hope; he was broken. His situation was painful. He wanted to run away; often, so do we.
28. Pray for our centennial: Keep us in a healthy loving relationship with You. Help us love You with our whole heart. Deut.6:5
29. Lord, David chose to run *to You* instead of running from fear. You carried him thru the darkest hour and his deepest fears.
30. God, You promise that 1 day, You will wipe away *every* tear. Rev.21:4 Until then, we trust You to collect our tears in your bottle.
31. Father, we need Your presence. Without You we are lost. But in Your presence, there is fullness of joy. Psal.16:11

## August

### Pray for the Unsaved.

**The Lord wants everyone to come to repentance.**

2 Peter 3:9

1. Father, equip our ESBC family to live out the Great Commission, as the church worldwide has done for 2000 years.
2. Lord, unbelievers desperately need to hear the Gospel, to know the truth. If Your people don't tell them, who will? 1 Tim.2:3-4
3. God, we don't know who will respond to the Gospel unless we share it. We won't see the answers to our prayers unless we pray.
4. Father, why should we pray? Prayers never change Your perfect purposes, but prayer changes the results of Your actions in our lives.
5. Lord, help our church family continue to play a role in Your eternal plan of salvation. Eph.1:3-14
6. God, how can we love You and our neighbor unless Your love is flowing through us? 1 John 4:19 Fill us with more love.
7. Pray for our centennial: Help us forgive each other before we bring our offerings and seek Your forgiveness. Matt.5:23-24, 6:14-15
8. Lord, may Your love be revealed to the world, through the active love shown by Your people. John 13:34-35
9. God, help us draw closer to You and cling tightly, to walk with You and never let go of Your hand.
10. Father, Satan tries to hinder our prayers, so that we gradually drift away from You. He is a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. John 10:10

## August

### Pray to Resist Temptation.

**Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

James 4:7

11. Lord, make us aware of the open doors that You place along our path. Grant us courage to enter, and the right seeds to plant.
12. God, we must pray for wisdom to do the work You have prepared for us - Your priorities, not mine. Eph.2:10
13. Father, protect us as Satan prowls and seeks to devour Your work in our lives. 1 Pet.5:8
14. Pray for our centennial: Remind us that we are united by faith in Christ, which is far stronger than any issue that divides us.
15. God, if we neglect to resist, Satan will cripple our testimony as an ambassador. 2 Cor.5:20 But if we resist, Satan will flee. James 4:7
16. Father, the forces of evil battle for the soul of each person. Eph.6:11-12 But Christ in us is infinitely greater than Satan. 1 John 4:4; Col.1:27; Gal.2:20
17. Lord, enable us to resist temptation using the 2 offensive weapons in the armor You provide: the sword of the Spirit (Scripture) and prayer. Eph.6:17-18
18. God, remind us to watch and pray, that we may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matt.26:41
19. Father, when we begin to pray, Satan always encourages us to put it off. We're exhausted at bedtime, drowsy at dawn, busy all day.
20. Lord, help us in our weakness to make prayer a priority. Help us resist the temptation to neglect to pray. James 4:2

## August

### Pray According to God's will.

**If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.**

1 John 5:14-15

21. Pray for our centennial: Keep us from slipping into a false sense of security that ESBC is "fine"; make us sensitive to daily challenges.
22. Father, teach us to pray, not to accomplish our will in heaven, but to accomplish Your will on earth.
23. Lord, may Your name be praised, and may Your kingdom spread to all the earth. Matt.6:9-11 You supply every need.
24. God, help us recognize our need to forgive. Protect us from evil. Send out laborers into Your harvest. Matt.6:12-13, 9:38
25. Father, may Your Gospel be received. 2 Thes.3:1 May Your Spirit fill us. Eph.3:19 May You save the lost. Rom.10:1
26. Lord, we need Your direction to apply the Bible. Eph.6:18-19 Guide our leaders. 1 Tim.2:1-2 Draw our enemies to You. Mt.5:44-45
27. God, remind us to pray for those who are sick (James 5:14-15), for one another (James 5:16), and for unity. John 17:20-21
28. Pray for our centennial: Guard us from evil, fear, disappointment, doubt, discouragement – every weapon that Satan uses to deceive.
29. Lord, grant us wisdom, endurance, patience and joy. James 1:5; Col.1:9-11 Help us to know You. Eph.1:17
30. God, we need the Holy Spirit's help (Rom.8:26), Your strength and presence. 1 Chron.16:11
31. Father, help us depend on You alone for overflowing faith (Luke 22:32), more love (Phil.1:9), for *everything*. Phil.4:6-7.

## September

**Pray that all of our action -- and inaction -- may reflect our love of God: “What good is it, my friends, for someone to say he has faith when his actions do nothing to show it?” James 2:14**

1. Lord, may it be an act of praise to you when I exercise restraint. (Prov 29:18)
2. May I use your law to illuminate my path, my King. Make my path straight. (Prov 29:18)
3. “What room then is left for human pride? It is excluded.” Lord, grant us humility. (Rom 3:27)
4. “Make my step firm according to your promise, and let no wrong have mastery over me.” (Ps 119:133)
5. May we at Earle Street be like those who witnessed Jesus with their own eyes – who, even when forbidden to tell of the greatness of what they had seen, were so overwhelmed that they couldn’t keep the good news to themselves. (Mk 7:36f)
6. “As long as I live I shall praise the Lord; I shall sing psalms to my God all my life long.” (Ps 146:2)
7. “Say to the anxious, ‘Be strong, fear not! Your God comes to save you.’ (Is 35:4)
8. May we be impartial, O Lord. May we purposefully avoid discrimination. (Jam 2:1-10)
9. May my faith in God be demonstrated by my actions today. (Jam 2:14ff)
10. “Elijah was a man just like us; yet when he prayed fervently that there should be no rain, the land had no rain for three and a half years.” (Jam 5:17)

## September

**Pray that we may be generous with each other: “With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.” Psalm 54:6**

11. Lord, thank you for those who do the work of the church, and the work of your kingdom, behind the scenes. Blessed be the helpers.
12. Thank you, Lord, for those at ESBC that have come before us. We are grateful for the groundwork they laid. May we continue their work – and yours.
13. May our tongues be wise and compassionate, consoling the weary with timely words. (Is 50:4)
14. May our ears be understanding and discerning, that we may continually receive your instruction, O God. (Is 50:4f)
15. Adonai, I invoke you by name. Deliver me, I pray! (Ps 116:4)
16. Lord, even as we eagerly anticipate heaven, may we walk in your presence in the land of the living. May we know your constant companionship. (Ps 116:9)
17. Lord, thank you for teachers. Bless them and fill them with your wisdom. (Jam 3:1)
18. Jesus wept – and so do we when we experience pain and loss. Thank you for understanding our grief so fully and intimately, Lord. (Jn 11:35)
19. May our relationships with others in the church be blessed, O Lord. May we honor our different strengths, working towards our goals of one accord.
20. May we daily share all that we have. Your kingdom is our joy, Lord! (Acts 2:43ff)

## September

Pray that we may work to fulfill God's plans – not our own. **“Peace is the seed-bed of righteousness, and the peacemakers will reap its harvest.”** James 3:18

21. You test our hearts and our minds, Lord. Help us not to be lazy. (Jer 11:20)
22. Your very name amazes me, my King. I acknowledge its power. (Ps 54)
23. May we cling to your perfect wisdom, God. Keep us from binding ourselves to the rivalries of this earth. (Jam 3:13-16)
24. Our lives are often comfortable, Lord. Our days are easy. May we not fall in love with this world. Your kingdom is our true home. (Jam 4:4)
25. Through Jesus you taught, “If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.” Give us servants’ hearts, O God! (Mar 9:35)
26. I pray for the future of ESBC and your church, Lord. Give me the strength to do your hard work, Lord, and the wisdom to know how fleeting the pain is.
27. You are our refuge from age to age, O God. “Grant us days of gladness for the days you have humbled us.” (Ps 90:1,15)
28. We are ashamed when we crave cravings, Lord. You have given us plenty. May we be satisfied! We need nothing but your blessing. (Num 11:4-6)
29. What you give us, we gather up. When you open your hand, we eat our fill of good things. (Ps 104:28)
30. I pray that your love for me overflow in my life. May I be ebullient!

## October

**“Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.”** Proverbs 1:5

1. God, may we be faithful servants in the example of Elijah and Elisha. 2 Kings 2:1-2
2. Lord, you are faithful. (2 Thess. 3:3) Thank you for your faithfulness to our congregation at Earle Street.
3. Jesus, you are the reason for our church and its 99 years of ministry. We praise your name!
4. Lord, may we remember your teaching that “where our treasure is there are our hearts also.” Matt. 6:21
5. Father, may we put our hope in you and “lean not on our own understanding.” Prov. 3:5
6. Father, with the psalmist may we say “...you are our refuge and fortress, in whom we trust.” Psalm 91:2
7. Lord, may we do nothing today that displeases you.
8. Lord, we give thanks for the former church members who began afternoon services in October 1921 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Tuten. (Later Earle Street Baptist Church was established based upon these preliminary services.)
9. Lord, I pray that you will help me have a clean heart and mind. Psalm 51:10
10. Lord, make me to be according to *your* heart.

## October

### Pray for Protection.

#### The Lord protects you

2 Thessalonians 3:3

11. Lord, please add to our wisdom so that our Centennial efforts will give glory and honor to you!
12. Father, please help me to avoid negative thoughts today.
13. Jesus, I want you to be the Lord of my life, now and forever.
14. Our father, our desire is to dwell on the truth. Please give us guidance. Prov. 1:5
15. Father, I pray for peace of mind today. May I handle stress properly.
16. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Psalm 51:10
17. Father, please help us to grow in faith so that obedience to you becomes our natural state of being.
18. Help us, Lord, to forgive as we are forgiven. Eph. 4:32
19. Father, we are so thankful for Earle Street Baptist Church and our staff. Please guide us as we seek to plan for the future of *your church* in our area.
20. Jesus, I commit myself to your care. May I not fear, have depression, or anxiety.

## October

### Pray for Peace.

#### Live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:18

21. May my heart be filled with love today. I know that *You are love*. I John 4:18
22. Lord, may we become immune to things you do not desire for us.
23. Father, today I give thanks for family and friends. I Thess. 5:18
24. May our Earle Street families grow in faith and love for you and for each other.
25. In all our endeavors may we honor you today, Father.
26. Father, we love you according to the first and greatest commandment. Matt. 22:38
27. Lord, please bless our efforts toward the fulfillment of your work in the Greenville area. May we do your will in all our Centennial celebrations.
28. Thank you, God, that you care for us and protect us.
29. Praise you, Father, because you keep us from fear.
30. God, please help me to serve you willingly and effectively today. Psalm 100:2
31. Our father, we praise and thank you for the many blessings bestowed upon Earle Street Baptist Church over these many years!

## November

### Pray that all glory may be given to God alone:

**“Praise the Lord. My soul, praise the Lord.”** Psalm 146:1

1. Make my life a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. (Rom 12:1)
2. Lord, help me to esteem others more highly than myself. (Rom 12:10)
3. “Fear God and pay him homage, for the hour of his judgment has come! Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!” (Rev 14:7)
4. “Come, see what the Lord has done, the astounding deeds he has wrought on earth!” Thank you, Lord, for the victory of your shalom. (Ps 46:8f)
5. “I pant, I thirst, longing for your commandments.” (Ps 119:131)
6. “In very truth I tell you,’ said Jesus, ‘that everyone who commits sin is a slave.’” Free us from our bondage, Lord. Forgive our sins. (Jn 8:34)
7. Lord, we are so grateful for the pastors of ESBC, both past and present. Thank you for blessing them with wisdom, compassion, and kindness.
8. “I believe; help my unbelief.” (Mk 9:24)
9. “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is the Lord his God.” (Ps 146:5)
10. May we give freely of all that we have in service of you and your kingdom, O Lord. We have faith that you will not let us be depleted. (1 Ki 17:8-16)

## November

### Pray that God may guide our thoughts and actions:

**“Fix your thoughts on what is true.”** Philippians 4:8

11. Lord, we look forward to being made pure like Christ. (1 Jn 3:3)
12. “Blessed are those who show mercy; mercy shall be shown to them.” (Mat 5:7)
13. “Blessed are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God.” (Mat 5:8)
14. Lord God, thank you for the unity that we feel at ESBC. Thank you for leading us to each other as a congregation. Bless the tolerance that we extend to one another.
15. Dear God, thank you for allowing us to participate in the work of the gospel. May he who started this work bring it to completion. (Phi 1:5f)
16. Awaken us to new life, O God. Let us shine like the sun. (Dan 12:2f)
17. “Lord... you maintain my boundaries: the lines fall for me in pleasant places; I am well content with my inheritance.” (Ps 16:5f)
18. Lord, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Show me the path of life. (Ps 16:11)
19. You have set your laws upon our hearts, O God. Fill us with the Holy Spirit. (Heb 10:15f)
20. “When the time comes say whatever is given you to say, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the holy Spirit.” Guide our message, Lord. (Mar 13:11)

## November

**Pray that we may work to fulfill God's plans: "I know that you can do all things, and no purposes of yours can be thwarted."** Job 42:2

21. We give thanks, God, for the wisdom and resources that our congregation enjoys. May our prosperity allow us to minister in new and creative ways.

22. May we obey our orders without fault or failure, O King. (1 Ti 6:14)

23. We are paying attention to you, God. We are listening. (Is 51:4)

24. From all eternity you are God. Your decrees stand firm throughout the ages. May we learn to delight in your law. (Ps 93)

25. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His mercy endures forever! (Psalms)

26. We ask that you bless those who are grandparents, dear Lord. Thank you for their love. We honor their influence on the generations that succeed them.

27. Lord, have mercy on those who doubt. May we be a comfort. (Jud 22)

28. May we at ESBC rekindle our love for you, our Lord and King. Renew a right spirit within us. Revive us again!

29. We await your kingdom eagerly and with patience, dear Lord. Our hope is in you and your perfect plan for us. (Rom 8:25)

30. "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions." Thank you for allowing me to spiritually mature. Let me walk always more closely with you, O God. (Ps 25:7)

## December

**Pray for fiercer faith not fleeting faith.**

**Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.** Hebrews 11:1

1. Father, we want to boldly believe in your unwavering promises.

2. Thank you for the fierce faith of previous Earle Street Baptist Church members who founded this church with you.

3. Thank you for your faithfulness that echoes through the decades in the history of our church.

4. As we name times we have seen the glory of your mercy and grace in our lives – we praise and thank you.

5. Thank you for our dedicated staff as they lead us during this special month. Please keep them safe, healthy, and joyful.

6. We ask you to help us to "Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus." 1Thessalonians 5:12

7. "Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love." Henry Van Dyke

8. As time nears for the celebration of our centennial, we pray for your continued guidance for our Strategic Planning Committee, History Team, staff, and all of us, may our plans be pleasing to you.

9. Remind us, Lord, when we are tempted that obedience to you is the path to peace.

10. We want to live by faith today and everyday, please help us to strengthen our faith as we praise you, worship you, study your word, and spend time with you in prayer.

## December

**Pray for submissive obedience to God. “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”**

Micah 6:8

11. Pray for discernment as the difficult decisions need to be made.
12. Lord, we want to walk with you and obey your commandments because that pleases you. “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:9
13. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father.” Thomas O. Chisholm
14. We know that Mary could not have realized all that would result from her faithful obedience. Help us to strive for faithful obedience.
15. Thank you for the faithful obedience to you by the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and all who have contributed to the centennial celebration.
16. Thank you for our extraordinary staff who live in obedience to you. The love they have for each of us is so evident and appreciated.
17. “Jesus is the Victor. Calvary is the place of victory. Obedience is the pathway of victory, bible study and prayer is the preparation for victory.” Corrie ten Boom
18. As you give us opportunities to share the story of Jesus, may we obey you and share the greatest story ever told.
19. We pray that we will seek you often and follow your direction.
20. “Therefore get your minds ready for action, being self-disciplined and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13

## December

**Pray for a loving heart: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believed in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** John 3:16

21. Thank you Father for loving us so much. Help us to show our love for you by loving others.
22. Thank you, Jesus, for your willingness to make such a sacrifice for our salvation. Help us to be willing to make sacrifices for others.
23. “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18
24. We pray for patience. “Love is patient.” 1 Corinthians 13:4
25. We pray to be kind. “Love is kind.” 1 Corinthians 13:4
26. Help us to love without demanding, without limit.
27. Lord, may we treasure, honor and cherish those hearts entrusted to us.
  28. “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a
  29. “Those who abandon ship the first time it enters a storm miss the calm beyond. And the rougher the storms weathered together, the deeper and stronger real love grows.” Ruth Bell Graham
  30. As this year ends, Father, lead us into the year of our Centennial Celebration with hearts filled with love for you first and foremost.
  31. Thank you for all your many blessings of 2021. Thank you for the faithful obedient, and loving members of the Strategic Planning Committee.