

SARASOTA
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**A 40-Day
Prayer
Vigil**

for our Pastoral Search

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Day 1

of 40

Proverbs 3:5–7

NIV

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

PRAY FOR:

...our congregation to trust the Spirit's leading; that our leaders, especially, would listen for Him and trust His prompting.

Day 2

of 40

Revelation 2:1–7

NIV

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

PRAY FOR:

...our congregation to return to her first love, Jesus; that our leadership would hear from Him clearly during the search.

Day 3

of 40

Ephesians 4:1–6

NIV

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

PRAY FOR:

...our congregation to continue in unity and peace; our leaders would strongly sense among them the unity that only Jesus can bring.

Day 4

of 40

John 15:1–8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.^{NIV} He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

PRAY FOR:

...our congregation and leaders to always abide in Jesus & bear much fruit to God’s glory during this “in between” time.

Day 5

of 40

John 15:9–15

NIV

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

PRAY FOR:

...the people of our congregation to remain in Jesus’ love for and with each other; that we and our new pastor would be bound together by Him.

Day 6

of 40

John 15:16–17

NIV

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

PRAY THAT:

...this interim season of ministry to continue bearing spiritual fruit glorifying God; that our leaders would see answered prayers in their lives.

Day 7

of 40

Psalm 139:23–24

NIV

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

PRAY THAT:

...our leaders' hearts would be pure while working through this search process; that our future pastor's heart and life would be pure before God.

Day 8

of 40

Ephesians 6:10–11

NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

PRAY THAT:

...we would understand searching for a pastor is primarily spiritual, therefore spiritual attacks will come; for God's protection while we search.

Day 9

of 40

2 Timothy 2:1–2

NIV

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

PRAY FOR:

...our future pastor & family to be strengthened by God's grace; that our future pastor would be a spiritual example worth following.

Day 10

of 40

James 1:5–8

NIV

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

PRAY FOR:

...our leaders to seek and experience God's wisdom while reviewing resumes and contacting candidates.

Day 11

of 40

Colossians 1:9–12

NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

PRAY THAT:

...our future pastor will be convicted that it's God's will to make a ministry transition; that God would be glorified by ALL — by us, by candidates, by people “left behind.”

Day 12

of 40

Ephesians 6:18

NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

PRAY THAT:

...we would pray in the Spirit and not just from our own agendas; that we would persevere and be alert to God's answers to our prayer.

Day 13

of 40

Acts 2:41–42

NIV

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

PRAY THAT:

...our congregation would reflect the 1st church's health in discipleship, prayer, ministry, worship, fellowship, and witnessing.

Day 14

of 40

Revelation 3:14–22

NIV

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

PRAY THAT:

...we would all fight spiritual apathy, we would continually repent of lukewarm spirituality, and pursue both God and the lost with zeal like Jesus.

Day 15

of 40

John 13:34–35

NIV

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

PRAY FOR:

...our leaders to be obedient to Jesus' command to love each other; that His love would be seen in us by the lost and watching world.

Day 16

of 40

Ephesians 3:20–21

NIV

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

PRAY FOR:

...the power of Jesus to be known in and through this church body and that all the fame, credit, glory would be His through this search process.

Day 17

of 40

Psalm 51:10–12

NIV

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

PRAY THAT:

...each person in leadership would stay close to Jesus, hearts cleaned by Him; that our new pastor also have a clean heart before God.

Day 18

of 40

2 Timothy 4:1–5

NIV

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

PRAY FOR:

...our new pastor to faithfully share the Word of God and the love of God.

Day 19

of 40

Hebrews 13:17

NIV

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

PRAY FOR:

...our new pastor to faithfully lead & love the people of this body and of the Church; that we rise up with new leadership & serve alongside.

Day 20

of 40

Joshua 1:9

NIV

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

PRAY FOR:

...our leaders to be strengthened by God and sense overwhelmingly His presence and guidance.

Day 21

of 40

Revelation 3:1–6

NIV

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

PRAY FOR:

...us to hold firmly to the message of Jesus; that our congregation would be full of the life of the Spirit & enabled to pursue God’s vision for us.

Day 22

of 40

James 4:1–12

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

PRAY THAT:

...we would always humble ourselves before God; that He would bring revival to us as we draw near to Him.

Day 23

of 40

John 17:20–23

NIV

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

PRAY FOR:

...unity in our body so the world will hear the Good News of Jesus through us; that our leaders would remain united in decision-making.

Day 24

of 40

2 Timothy 2:15

NIV

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

PRAY FOR:

...a pastor who rightly handles and teaches the Word, and our search team as they look for such a leader.

Day 25

of 40

Jeremiah 33:3

NIV

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

PRAY FOR:

...us to feel a deep and urgent drive to pray for God’s will to be done in our search and for God’s vision for our church to be realized.

Day 26

of 40

2 Kings 6:14–17

NIV

Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

PRAY THAT:

...we would see as only God can enable; that our steps would be directed by God; that we would have His protection.

Day 27

of 40

Colossians 3:12–17

NIV

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PRAY FOR:

...our congregation to grow in love toward each other; that any broken relationships in the church would be reconciled.

Day 28

of 40

Revelation 3:7–13

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

PRAY FOR:

...God to open doors for us and that we would see such open doors; that we would persevere, and nonbelievers would see God’s love on and in us.

Day 29

of 40

Romans 12:12

NIV

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.*

PRAY THAT:

...we would be confident in the hope God gives, patient when we encounter hurdles in the search, and faithful in prayer as a body.

Day 30

of 40

Hebrews 10:19–25

NIV

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

PRAY THAT:

...we remain committed to biblical worship; that our leaders would boldly go into God's presence in worship, seeking wisdom.

Day 31

of 40

1 Peter 5:1–4

NIV

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

PRAY FOR:

...our future pastor to lead people in God-honoring, biblical ways; that our future pastor’s walk with Jesus would not falter.

Day 32

of 40

1 Peter 5:5–7

NIV

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

PRAY FOR:

...deep respect, an attitude of serving and great mutual humility between our congregation and future pastor.

Day 33

of 40

1 Peter 5:8–9

NIV

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

PRAY THAT:

...our congregation would be alert to the activity of the enemy and pray for other congregations engaged in pastoral searches.

Day 34

of 40

Ephesians 5:15–16

NIV

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

PRAY THAT:

...our leaders' meetings would be Spirit-directed, time spent effectively & efficiently; that God would reveal His will to our new pastor.

Day 35

of 40

1 Timothy 3:1–7

NIV

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

PRAY THAT:

...our new pastor would exhibit the character of Jesus in public & private; the new pastor's family would have God's favor as they transition here.

Day 36

of 40

Ephesians 1:15–23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

PRAY FOR:

...our new pastor to grow in the wisdom & knowledge of Jesus; that our church would look to Jesus alone as the Head of His body.

Day 37

of 40

Philippians 2:1–11

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAY THAT:

...Jesus' attitude of humility & serving soaks into us all — leaders, people, pastor — both during and after the search.

Day 38

of 40

Galatians 6:9

NIV

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

PRAY THAT:

...our leaders would not be weary in their work because we know and see God's hand in answered prayers and the "harvest" that only He gives.

Day 39

of 40

Isaiah 55:6–9

NIV

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

PRAY THAT:

...we would continue seeking God diligently and trust that He alone is bringing together our body and our future pastor.

Day 40

of 40

Matthew 28:18–20

NIV

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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

PRAY THAT:

...our congregation always embrace our Great Commission; that our future pastor will be such a leader, doing the Great Commission, an example that we eagerly follow.

