



# DALLAS DAY OF UNITY AND JUSTICE

# PRAYER GUIDE

SPONSORED BY  
**ONE DALLAS & DALLAS CLERGY**

**“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**

## **ON OUR KNEES TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE**

Churches across the DFW area are committing to unite in daily prayer in preparation for Sunday, August 9, 2020, “A Day of Unity and Justice.” On that day, pastors across the DFW area will be preaching from Micah 6:8. We are praying that August 9, 2020, will be a day that brings our city together as we focus on and pray for racial unity, justice, equity, and change. We are asking for a miracle. We are asking for God to do what only God can do. We are hoping to become the church that displays the goodness of God through justice, mercy, and humility.

We encourage all church members to use this prayer guide, gathering us around Micah 6:8 each day during August 2-9, to prepare the way for the work of God in our cities. Proverbs 11:10 says: “When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices.” When churches come together in unity and prayer, what a powerful display of the majesty of God that is.

Acts 1:14 describes the people of God as they obeyed Jesus’ instructions to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem—the city He sent them to transform. “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

This week we will come together as a united church on our knees. Whether you literally pray from your knees, close your eyes, lie down, sit down, prostrate yourself, the critical posture of prayer is a sincere heart that yearns to do the will of God. Martin Luther King Jr. said: “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

May this work of prayer breathe life into the efforts of our churches and unite us in the work God has called us to do.



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# “HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD.”

## WHAT IS GOOD?

What is good from God’s perspective? We are the church commissioned by Jesus to take the gospel from our cities into all the world.

We are the church who starts our work on our knees. We are the church scattered around our city full of hurting people. We are uniting on our knees around the discord of racial injustice in our city, our state, our country and our world.

What is on your heart as you kneel before God today in prayer? What is good? What hope do you have for God in this discord of our nation? What do you believe about the power of the churches in Dallas kneeling in prayer together?

Do you see the goodness of joining with others who do not share our Christian faith as they pursue justice?

Paul showed us how to live out Christian faith by addressing the culture of our time (Acts 17:22–34). When he was in Athens, he was brought before the rulers of the city to defend his faith. He chose to share his faith by acknowledging the goodness of the culture of Athens. They were extremely religious. He identified with their yearning for God. He used the idol created for the “Unknown God” to share his personal faith.

As the church joins the call for justice, we form relationships that provide opportunities to

be known as Christians and share our love for God.

## PRAYER

Our Good God, we want the world to see the goodness of Your justice, mercy and humility through Your church. We unite our hearts because we know that You alone are good. May goodness flow from our churches throughout our cities, creating positive changes in our education, economy, criminal justice system, churches, community centers, and homeless population, valuing every human being created in the image of God.

**We are the church commissioned by Jesus to take the Gospel from our cities into all the world.**



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## “AND WHAT DOES THE LORD...”

### OUR LORD

When Jesus taught us to pray, He gave us the model prayer that began with “our.” The work of justice is not the job of one person or a certain group of people. It is the work of all who call on the name of Jesus. Justice is the heart of God. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” When God tells us that what is good is to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly, He is calling us to be Christians—little Christs. Ephesians 2:4, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us” defines God as love. Philippians 2:8, “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

even death on a cross,” is a picture of God’s humility.

Our Lord is a Lord who not only tells us what is good but also shows us what is good. How is your heart touched as you consider the greatness of our Lord? Do you believe that our Lord will answer our prayers in a miraculous way? Do you believe that He has the power to unite our churches around the call for the church to be involved in bringing justice, mercy, and humility to our city?

### PRAYER

Our Lord, we want to be one as You prayed for us to be one. Our world needs Your church to unite in the truth of Your Word. May we focus on You, our Lord, and see every human being as created in Your image and loved by You.

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

— Deuteronomy 32:4

A black and white aerial photograph of Dallas, Texas, featuring the Margaret Hunt Browlie Bridge in the foreground and the city skyline in the background. The bridge is a cable-stayed bridge with a prominent white arch. The skyline includes several skyscrapers and the Reunion Tower. The image is partially overlaid by a green banner on the right side.

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## “...REQUIRE OF YOU?”

### THE OBEDIENCE OF PRAYER

The church is called to prayer and action. “Require” and “obedience” are not pleasant words for people created with a free-will. Adam and Eve brought sin into the world because they refused God’s requirement. The requirements of God will never harm us. God never asks us to do anything that will hurt us. He does require justice, mercy, humility, and more. All is for our good.

How can we respond to the Lord’s requirements? How can our prayers turn to obedience? John Eudes said that “True obedience is impossible without relationship.” Obedience is formed in prayer. Prayer is relationship that leads to trust and obedience. God sets requirements for us as Christians that will leave us with peace. As we gather

for prayer this week around Micah 6:8, we will be asked to incarnate that prayer through our obedience in fulfilling the requirements of justice, mercy and humility.

### PRAYER

All Wise God, you have requirements that lead to peace. We are prone to wander from Your ways. Help us see that any requirement is good for us. We repent of the ways we have neglected Your requirement of standing up in our city for justice, mercy and humility.

“True obedience  
is impossible  
without  
relationship.”

— John Eudes



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## “TO ACT JUSTLY..”

### JUSTICE IS ACTION

America lost a great leader, advocate, and moral authority when Representative John Lewis passed away in July. Lewis often spoke about the need to put faith into action. On March 1st of this year, Lewis said from the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Georgia, “Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”

2020 has been a year of trouble. We see the highest unemployment in decades. People are sick and dying. Churches struggle to know what to do. But there is a deeper trouble that is gnawing in each of us and in the soul of America. It is the trouble

of systemic racism, and oppression, experienced in healthcare disparities, police brutality, and income inequality.

There is bad trouble, but then there is also good trouble. Good trouble calls out injustice. Good trouble stands up against laws and practices that are unfair. Good trouble stands up on behalf of the poor and marginalized, the foreigner and the widow.

God says, “Don’t just talk about justice. Don’t just think well of justice. Act justly. Do justice. Get into some good trouble.” When we act together, it’s possible for the soul of America to be redeemed.

### PRAYER

Just God, help us not to just think about justice or even long for justice, but to act justly. Help us to get into some good trouble this week by speaking out, crying out, helping out, or walking out with those who are treated unjustly. Help us to know what we can do, entrusting all justice ultimately in Your hands.

“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.” — John Lewis

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## “...AND TO LOVE MERCY..”

### THE FOUNDATION OF JUSTICE

Some churches begin their worship service by saying, “God is good.” The people shout back, “All the time.” “And all the time...God is good.” But is that really true? Is God good all the time? What about when you’re in pain? What about when your family members experience injustice? Is God good during that time? Is God good when disease comes or when you hear the cancer diagnosis? Is God good when you’re unable to see your elderly parent in a nursing home?

On our best days we believe that God is good. On our worst days we doubt it. Most of life

is lived somewhere between these two extremes.

The Bible proclaims that God is good all the time. “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...” (Psalm 23:6) We need to confess God’s goodness and mercy on the good days so that we can claim it on the bad days.

God’s goodness and mercy are for all time. God shows unending compassion and forgiveness. Because that’s true, we can work for justice. We can extend forgiveness and love to the helpless, the broken, and the trapped. While our world has little use for mercy, God says, “Love

mercy.” Rejoice in acts of mercy. Cherish the way that God’s goodness and mercy flow even to the undeserving. That’s the foundation for working for justice.

### PRAYER

Merciful God, thank You for your promise that Your goodness and mercy will always follow us. Help us to be people of compassion, for You are full of compassion and goodness, all the time.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life . . .” — Psalm 23:6



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## “...AND TO WALK HUMBLy..”

### HUMILITY LEADS TO RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is one of the great themes, if not the greatest theme, of the Bible. God seeks to be reconciled to a sinful humanity. Apart from that reconciliation — forgiveness and mercy received — broken humans could never expect to be reconciled to one another. But “...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17) God is making us new, which includes being reconciled to one another. “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has

committed to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Another great theme is humility. “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (James 4:6) Humility is the only proper stance before a holy, awesome God. Those who are proud can expect nothing from God, but the humble receive God’s favor and find themselves reconciled — reunited, healed, made right. That’s why God calls us to walk humbly before God.

In human relationships, humility is the key to reconciliation. Humility recognizes the image of God in the other person, even if it is drastically distorted. Humility seeks to understand

more than being understood. Humility resists the power to humiliate or destroy your enemy. Humility becomes the soil in which something new can grow.

Thank God that all things are being made new! Thank God that relationships across racial lines can be reconciled, people can work side by side for justice and equality, and wrong can be made right!

### PRAYER

Grace-filled God, forgive us when we have been proud. Forgive us when we have withheld forgiveness to others. You have entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation, so may we be good stewards of that ministry — working for equity and fairness for all.

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” — James 4:6



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## “...WITH YOUR GOD.”

### UNITY WITH OUR GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

It’s been said that the key to life is not about winning but about one-ing. It’s not about having the perfect career, perfect marriage, or perfect image. It’s not about material success or popularity, being a little better off or more well-known than others. Instead, life is about connection. It’s about being rightly related — to God, to one another, and to God’s creation. It’s about communion.

God’s heart invites us to oneness with God. That is a great mystery — that God wants to be united with us. God wants to be the unseen presence, the air we breathe, the life that flows through us just as

blood courses through our bodies. God is one — Father, Son, and Spirit—united in deep relationship. And God won’t rest until we are one together as a human family.

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one,” Jesus prayed in John 17:21, “as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.” Jesus prayed that believers would be united in heart and mission, overcoming differences with love. He prayed that we would be one because that’s how the world will know that God is real and that Jesus is truly the Lord of all. There’s room in His family for people from every skin color, every personality, and every background. God loves

diversity; but out of diversity, God longs to create a unity grounded in God’s love.

May God bring us together as a city. May we be one as God is one with Jesus and the Spirit. May we dwell in unity. May we work for justice, peace, and wholeness together.

### PRAYER

One God, giver of all life, thank You for inviting us into Oneness with You. We are on our knees this week, together, crying out to You. Hear our prayer and answer from heaven. Bring us together and bind us together as never before. Let righteousness prosper and Your city rejoice.

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one —as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.” — John 17:21



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## “A DAY OF UNITY OF JUSTICE”

**TODAY**, churches across our cities will have a sermon about unifying for justice from Micah 6:8. The majority of these sermons will be preached and streamed digitally because we are currently the church in quarantine. Some may think the church will not survive quarantine, but what they don't know is that the church is not a building with a steeple or even a storefront with cool graphics. The church is a group of people united by the Holy Spirit, who lives in every person who has put their faith in Christ. Quarantine has forced the church to focus on what is most important, connecting people and the Word of God. We don't have to gather in large groups to fully worship our Lord together and work together as a church. The churches in the cities around Dallas are meeting today in a powerful way as never before

in our history. Have you ever known 30 churches of different denominations from different parts of the city to unite their prayers, their preaching, their actions for justice? Our church doors may remain closed, but our church work is active.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s concern that the church is not about its own self-interest is just as relevant today. In his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” he wrote: “But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If today's church does not capture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust.”

On the day before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, Joshua told the people: “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you (Joshua 3:5).” Oswald Chambers challenged: “Are you prepared for what sanctification will do? It will cost an intense narrowing of all our interests on earth and an immense broadening of our interest in God.”

### PRAYER

Almighty God: We are humbled to be in Your powerful presence in prayer. We pray for all the pastors around our city who will be preaching from Micah 6:8 on this day of Unity and Justice. We want to do what it is You require of us. Show us Your power through Your church on this day. Revive Your work through us.



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# New! Weekly City-Wide Prayer Call

You are invited to continue the work of prayer empowering all the actions of our churches. Starting on August 11th, the prayer call will happen on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Call **701.802.5085** and use the access code **2860688** to pray with our city-wide church over the needs of our cities. Each week will be led by a member of our group and will last twenty to thirty minutes. When you dial into the number, please put yourself on mute. If you are not able to mute your phone, please try to be in a quiet place without wind or other background noises. There may be times when the leader invites you to pray in unison and asks you to unmute yourself. Let us humbly repent and call on our Good God to revive us again.

VISIT **DALLASPRAYS.COM** FOR ONGOING WAYS TO PRAY FOR OUR CITY AND TO SIGN UP FOR REGULAR PRAYER UPDATES.

## More Ways to Stay Involved

### SIX-WEEK CALL TO ACTION PLAN

#### WEEK 1

Join the Together We Can Movement and purchase a bracelet at [www.togetherwecan.one](http://www.togetherwecan.one).

#### WEEK 2

Focus on Psalm 82:3-4 and reach out to a leader and provide support and encouragement.

#### WEEK 3

Focus on Isaiah 58:12 and pray with someone who struggles with social justice issues.

#### WEEK 4

Focus on Matthew 5:2 and review the two bills on criminal justice reform.

#### WEEK 5

Focus on I Corinthians 1:9-20 and advocate for equitable budget allocations for education, housing and healthcare locally and nationally by calling your local elected official.

#### WEEK 6

Focus on Hebrews 3 and read about the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama.

#### Earned Time Credit Petition 2020

All people should be given credit for their rehabilitation efforts and hard work to transform their lives. Since each person and set of circumstances is unique, they should be evaluated on an individual basis, rather than categorized by the crime they are serving time for. After a certain time, staying in prison becomes detrimental to the people who are trying to rebuild their lives, and the communities that were left behind.

#### Independent Oversight 2020

Criminal justice advocates and the families of Texas inmates are calling for independent oversight of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to help spot systemic issues before they once again result in tragic circumstances or costly litigation.

If interested in supporting these efforts, contact your local elected official in Texas.