



# GRACE UNITED CHURCH ADVENT 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 <i>Hope</i>	29 <i>Sandwich Ministry</i>	30 <i>Honduras</i>	1 <i>World AIDS Day</i>	2 <i>God's Presence</i>	3 <i>Persons with Disabilities</i>	4 <i>Peacekeeping</i>
5 <i>Peace</i>	6 <i>Violence Against Women</i>	7 <i>Emergency Services</i>	8 <i>Youth &amp; Young People</i>	9 <i>Homeless &amp; Hungry</i>	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i>	11 <i>Spiritual Growth</i>
12 <i>Joy &amp; Music Ministries</i>	13 <i>Community of Faith</i>	14 <i>Addictions</i>	15 <i>Forgiveness</i>	16 <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	17 <i>Your Family</i>	18 <i>UCC Leadership</i>
19 <i>Love &amp; Intergenerational</i>	20 <i>New Members</i>	21 <i>The Longest Night</i>	22 <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry</i>	23 <i>SME &amp; Transition</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>

*May you find this Advent Prayer Calendar an inspirational resource in your prayer life. Many of us are unsure of what to say in prayer, and we hope this resource will help get you started, during this Season of Advent. ~ Grace United Discipleship Team*



**Sunday, November 28**    *Hope*

God of Hope, we rekindle hope for all at this holiday season as we continue in this pandemic. We lift up the new ministry of Project H.O.P.E. (Help Other People Everyday). Thank you for generosity and for our community of faith continuing to engage the community as Christ's servants. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Monday, November 29**    *Sandwich Ministry*

Nourishing God, thank you for this new initiative connecting our community of faith with community partners "Sandwich Sisters" ministry and One Roof Community Center. Thank you that we can safely use the kitchen in small groups, for those who make sandwiches at home, and for this new bi-weekly Monday ministry. Thank you for the generosity of our congregation that supports our many ministries of care and compassion reaching those in need. Bless those who prepare and those who receive sandwiches. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Tuesday, November 30**    *Honduras*

God-of-all, since 2006 we as Grace United Church people have partnered with Friends of Honduran Children to offer God's kind of love and care to the community of Nuevo Paraiso (New Paradise) in Honduras, where children who have been orphaned and abandoned or who are at great risk are welcomed, safely housed and nurtured. We give thanks for the diligence and devotion of those who give these children a loving home and an education so that they can grow up to make positive contributions to a society that is crippled with poverty and crime. In Jesus' name, we pray today for justice and peace for the people of Honduras. Amen.

**Wednesday, December 1**    *World AIDS Day*

Healing God, so often we forget about disease that is prevalent as other news gets featured. Thank you for medicines that continue to help those afflicted with HIV AIDS. Thank you for care givers and medical personnel that continue to address needs. For this and other widespread diseases, we pray for healing, treatment, cures and eradication. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

**Thursday, December 2**    *God's Presence*

Awesome God, there are times when the Holy Spirit fills me with hope and puts a spring in my step, but there are times too when the light seems to go out. Today, I pray for Your presence with me, loving God, as I make choices and decisions that ....

**Friday, December 3**    *International Day for Persons with Disabilities*

God of all, thank you for your comfort and presence, for those living with disability mentally, physically, cognitively, emotionally, and spiritually. Thank you that you love each of us just as we are. Help us to know we are enough and beloved by you who know us by name. For those struggling with new diagnosis, progression of disease and fears, surround people, loved ones with loving kindness and acceptance and guide all in care and healing. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

**Saturday, December 4**    *Peacekeeping and the Impact of War*

Gentle God, tomorrow we light the candle of peace in our Advent journey, celebrating peace where we find it, and longing for the prophesy of the prophet Isaiah to come about, when "no more will nation fight nation; they won't play war anymore." Today, I ask You, loving God, to keep safe all those who selflessly keep the peace and work as guardians of justice in war torn regions of our hurting world. I pray especially for ...

### **Sunday, December 5**    *Peace*

God of Peace, help us all to be peace makers and to journey a path of peace in our interactions with each other and all of creation. Grant us giving hearts to live in peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

### **Monday, December 6**    *National Day of Remembrance on Violence Against Women*

Weeping God, this day came into being as a result of terrible tragedy in the massacre in Montreal December 6, 1989. Thank you for your presence in the midst of all tragedy. I pray for equity among women, lifting up all who have died and for all the murdered and missing women and girls. Help us hear these stories and stand up for no more violence. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

### **Tuesday, December 7**    *Emergency Services Personnel*

Creator God, today I give thanks that You have indeed created wonderful people who hear the call to serve us all in times of critical need. What amazing people they are, the emergency responders whose commitment to giving help when and where it is most needed, saves lives and gives comfort when it is so needed. I pray that ...

### **Wednesday, December 8**    *Youth Group & Young People*

God of all ages, our children and youth are the future of your church. We lift them up to you. Those in our Sunday school and youth group, and those from our neighbourhoods who are destined to be here. Lord, you know them and love them all. Protect them and shelter them. May their parents, grandparents, teachers and schoolmates be good examples of your love and care and bring them closer to you as....

### **Thursday, December 9**    *Homeless & Hungry*

Lord, we are heartbroken by the number of people in our world and in our community that are hungry or homeless or both. We lift them all up to you. You know their situations. You know their hearts. It is not up to us to judge or condemn them but to show compassion, love and good will. Thankyou for YES, One Roof, PATH, YWCA, foodbanks and nourish programs, Project H.O.P.E., and GPIF. May we continue to support these and other programs that are helping to feed and shelter the hungry and homeless. We lift to you those who are in need in this way and ask...

### **Friday, December 10**    *Human Rights Day*

God of Justice, our hearts break at the inequity that exists. Help us confront our own privilege and power, to open our hearts and learning to advocate for the human dignity and rights of all. I pray in the name of Jesus, who modelled equity and love of all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Saturday, December 11**    *Spiritual Growth*

Loving God, at Christmas time we hear much about Your Son Jesus, born in a manger. Let us not remain there. Help us as we seek to know Jesus, the man, the risen Lord, our Savior and redeemer. Fill us to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit so as we sing and pray and read your word the Spirit can teach us and guide us, and we can be more like Jesus every day and come to know him as a friend and confidant, our Saviour. With your help, may I continue to grow in...

### **Sunday, December 12**    *Joy & Music Ministries*

Singing Spirit, thank you for gifts of song that fill our hearts with joy and thanksgiving. We pray for all the many music ministries at Grace. Guide and direct us all to share in this joy. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **Monday, December 13**    *Community of Faith*

God of all, thank you for our community of faith at Grace United. We come in all ages and stages, large families, single, widows, orphans, young and old and in between; some healthy, some struggling with cancer or other health issues, some celebrating new life and baptism, others the death of loved ones and grieving; some opinionated, some shy and uncomfortable giving their opinion, some well versed in your Word, some just learning about you. Whatever age or stage we are at, bring us together Lord. The pandemic has affected us all and we are trying to get back to normal. Lord, restore our congregation, make it strong and healthy again. Heal and protect those who worship here. Unite us in our vision and give us strength and Godly wisdom to follow where you lead us as a congregation. May we be a beacon to the neighbourhood and may they be drawn to your Light. In Jesus name we pray Amen

### **Tuesday, December 14**    *Addictions*

Caring God, I think about the many people who are challenged by addiction, and I know that through you they may find strength and courage to heal. I pray that you will infuse their mind, heart, body and soul with your divine energy. I lift to you...

### **Wednesday, December 15**    *Forgiveness*

God of mercy, I give you thanks for your gift of forgiveness and the power it embraces. May your compassion and forgiveness fill me that I may choose to share them with those who have hurt me and others, regardless of whether or not they are aware of the hurt they have caused. Help me also to forgive myself for I know I often forget how marvellously you made me. Remind me, O God, that you have created every life with purpose and through the gift of forgiveness you empower me to move forward with strength and courage, centering me on your will for my life as the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ. With all my being I pray this. Amen

### **Thursday, December 16**    *Indigenous Peoples*

Divine Healer, may you open my eyes to the injustices brought against our Indigenous Peoples, their language, their culture and their lives. Help me to understand and learn from the past, that I may be an instrument of your peace, learning to live together in love and working toward reconciliation with all people. May your love and peace fill all of those who...

### **Friday, December 17**    *Your Family*

Holy Mystery, you shower my family with countless blessings and it is often that I take those blessings for granted. I know you have journeyed with us through the joys and sorrows, challenges and celebration we have shared. Thank you for your presence in our lives and I ask that you be with us as we continue our journey as a family. Be with....

### **Saturday, December 18**    *Regional Council / UCC Leadership*

Guiding God, we pray for the leaders in our National and Regional Councils. Fill them with patience, peace, and joy for their work, and may they always remember you are with them. May they find strength in you as they...

### **Sunday, December 19**    *Love & Intergenerational service*

God of all ages, thank you for people of all ages and stages, renew and rejuvenate all people to work together and celebrate love, honouring all as mentors and models to one another. Thank you for all the children and youth and their leaders who lovingly serve you in praise and celebration of worship today. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

### **Monday, December 20**    *New Members*

God of welcome and hospitality, we celebrate our new members and welcome them to our midst. May we be...

**Tuesday, December 21**    *The Longest Night*

Grieving God, thank you that you are with us in our grief journey. Thank you for your loving presence in our times of loss and all its impacts. Thank you for all the loved ones, friends, community members who have touched our lives, inspired and motivated us, in quiet ways, in leadership, in their modelling of Christian faith. Their loss hurts. On this longest night, grant peace and serenity, comfort and strength. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Wednesday, December 22**    *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Holy Friend and Comforter, We pray for those that create the Prayer Shawls and thank them for sharing their talents and we pray for those that receive them, and the many joys, concerns and needs the recipients are facing -- grieving, births, marriages, illness...Guide hands and hearts, enveloping all in your loving care. You who knit us in our mother's womb, thank you for so intimately knowing us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Thursday, December 23**    *SME & Transition*

Ever present God, we lift up those who have committed to serving on the SME and Transition Committees in our Grace Community of Faith, and thank them for their continuing work on our behalf. May they find in you....

**Friday, December 24**    *Christmas Eve*

God of love, you sent your Son to be among us. We celebrate the birth of our Saviour, our infant king. Thank you for your love that touches us every day and the miracle of Christ's birth. This year we struggle with things continuing to be so different. Meet us where we are and guide us in how to best serve you and celebrate our faith. Awaken us to receive the call you have on my heart. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.