

# FORWARD BY PRAYER

A Month of Prayer for

  
**the bridge**

At St. Paul's Bloor Street

**“You must go forward on your knees.” - Hudson Taylor**

Years ago, God called St. Paul's Bloor Street to launch **the bridge**, an alternative worship service with an emphasis on warm hospitality, contemporary music, and spiritual growth. Over the years the service has grown, evolved and even moved locations. Now we sense God calling **the bridge** to take the next step in its continued growth. What does that mean? Where is God calling us? What does the future hold? These are exciting questions. As we contemplate the future, let's commit to a month of prayer: praying for God's blessing, seeking God's guidance, and listening for God's voice. Only then can we faithfully follow God into the future. Please use this prayer journal as a way to guide and record your own daily prayers for St. Pauls, and specifically for **the bridge**.

## **Week 1: January 21-27**

### Praying Upward WORSHIP

How we create an atmosphere of worship is crucial to our Sunday morning experience. Singing songs, using space, participating in liturgy, hearing sermons, and sharing communion are all hallmarks of our Sunday worship. This week let's pray for "how" we shape our weekly worship service, and how it shapes us. Where is God affirming us? Where is God challenging us? Where is God leading us next?

*"Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him."*

- Hudson Taylor

**MONDAY, JANUARY 21**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth." John 4:24

*Praying & Listening:*

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 22**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:3

*Praying & Listening:*

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power. For You created all things." Revelation 4:11

*Praying & Listening:*

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth." Psalm 96:1

*Praying & Listening:*

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name." Psalm 100:4

*Praying & Listening:*

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**  
**Praying Upward: Worship**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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## **Week 2: January 28-February 3**

### Praying Downward DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is an ongoing process whereby we are equipped to grow in Christ and follow him in our day-to-day lives. From childhood to adulthood, we are all students learning the way of Jesus. This week let's pray for how **the bridge** community is helping us grow in our walk with Christ. Are we growing? Are our children and youth growing? What's working? What's not? What more is God calling us to?

*"If we don't disciple people, the culture will." - Alan Hirsch*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 28**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

*Praying & Listening:*

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."  
Proverbs 22:6

*Praying & Listening:*

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

*Praying & Listening:*

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him."  
Matthew 9:9

*Praying & Listening:*

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

*Praying & Listening:*

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
**Praying Downward: Discipleship**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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## **Week 3: February 4-10**

### Praying Inward COMMUNITY

Creating a growing, welcoming, and diverse community often means stepping outside of our comfort zones and putting others ahead of ourselves. We all crave real relationships and are looking for a place where we can be ourselves and belong. This week: pray for the community at **the bridge**: Are we welcoming? Are we diverse? Are we authentic? Who's here? Who's missing? How is God calling our community to grow in the years to come?

*"Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing." - Nicky Gumbel*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

*Praying & Listening:*

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "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."  
John 15:12-13

*Praying & Listening:*

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47

*Praying & Listening:*

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves... Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:10-11

*Praying & Listening:*

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Carry each other's burdens,  
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."  
Galatians 6:2

*Praying & Listening:*

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10**  
**Praying Inward: Community**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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## Week 4: February 11-17

Praying Outward

MISSION

God does not call us primarily to “come to church” but to “be the church.” Every Sunday we go back out into the world as God’s missionary people. God sends us to share the gospel of Christ in word and deed in our daily lives. This week let’s pray for the mission of **the bridge**: How can we reach more people with the good news of Christ? Where is God working in our neighbourhoods? How can we join God’s work? How can **the bridge** be a bridge for people to encounter Christ?

*“It’s possible to be a missionary without ever leaving your zip code.” - Ed Stetzer*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing... all the nations of the earth will be blessed through you."  
Genesis 12:2-3

*Praying & Listening:*

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."  
Matthew 5:14-16

*Praying & Listening:*

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Seek the prosperity of the city to which I have sent you as exiles. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for if it prospers, you too will prosper."  
Jeremiah 29:7

*Praying & Listening:*

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" 1 Peter 3:15

*Praying & Listening:*

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit..." John 20:21-22

*Praying & Listening:*

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
**Praying Outward: Mission**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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## **Week 5: February 18-24**

Praying Forward

VISION

This week let's pray for the overall vision of **the bridge**: that God would lead us to discern a compelling vision for the future, that God would show us a picture of who we are being called to be, and that God would give us courage to follow where He leads.

*"Vision is a mental picture of what could be, fueled by a passion that it should be." - Andy Stanley*

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

## Praying Forward: Vision

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

*Praying & Listening:*

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## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### Praying Forward: Vision

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

*Praying & Listening:*

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## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

### Praying Forward: Vision

*Reading & Reflecting:* "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

*Praying & Listening:*

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
**Praying Forward: Vision**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18

*Praying & Listening:*

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**Praying Forward: Vision**

*Reading & Reflecting:* "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." Proverbs 3:5-6

*Praying & Listening:*

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
**Praying Forward: Vision**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**Praying Forward: Vision**

*Weekend Reflection:*

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**“When we work, we work.  
When we pray, God works.”  
- Hudson Taylor**



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