

easter 2024

issue no. 20

# Prayer Guide



# EASTER

AT ELLERSLIE



# *Easter Weekend*

**good friday service**  
**march 29 | 10:30 am**

Join in worship and reflection as we look to Jesus' death on the cross - his sacrifice for our freedom!

**Unable to come in person?** Join the live stream at [ellerslie.online.church](https://www.ellerslie.online.church).

**ekids classes** will be available for ages 6 months to 3 years old. Ages 4 and up will join their parents in the main service.

Kids can pick up activity booklets in the foyer prior to the service.

**easter sunday service**  
**march 31 | 10:30 am**

**Celebrate Easter at Ellerslie!** The Renew, Traditions, and Starlight services will gather together for one service in the main auditorium. Additional seating will be available in the Gym where the service will be live streamed.

**Unable to come in person?** Join us online at [ellerslie.online.church](https://www.ellerslie.online.church).

**ekids classes** will be available for ages 6 months old up to and including Kindergarten. Students in grades 1 to 6 will join their parents in the main service.

Kids can pick up activity bags in the foyer prior to the service.

# Prayer Events

**prayer nights | starting february 28**  
**wednesdays | 7:00 - 8:15 pm**

Join us in prayer throughout the Lenten season. On Wednesday evenings the Prayer Room will be open for individuals to participate in a focused time of seeking the Lord together.

These gatherings will run alongside Family Discipleship Night until March 20th.

**Questions? Contact Rick at [rfoster@erbc.ca](mailto:rfoster@erbc.ca).**

**prayer stations**  
**march 27 | 6:30 pm**

Engage in Holy Week with this interactive evening! Find yourself immersed in the Easter story as you travel to various prayer stations throughout the church building. Go at your own pace, pausing to reflect as you need to.

These stations have been curated for all ages and are especially ideal for families with elementary and junior high students. We hope your family will create key memories as you engage in this spiritual activity together!

**Questions? Contact Pastor Kelsey at [kweisberg@erbc.ca](mailto:kweisberg@erbc.ca).**

# *What Is Lent?*

Death, something intimately profound and yet deeply fearsome – we’re all going to die. This may seem disheartening, but without this truth there would be little to no point for Easter to be celebrated year-round. That is why a key part of the message of Lent is to acknowledge the stubborn reality of death and the role life plays in it every single day. Historically, this begins with Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday, we confront the painful fact that our existence will be reduced to dust and ash. Traditionally throughout history this has been done in a tactile way, by smearing ash on our foreheads and wearing it throughout the day. Ash Wednesday is the church’s silent and communal way to proclaim, “You and I are going to die.” Lent thus begins by confronting us with the reality of death, but praise Jesus, that is not the end! The point is not to dwell on death itself, but rather to confront the reality of death and let it drive us closer to Jesus - similarly as he journeyed toward his execution on the cross. Why? Because, “Unless death scares you, resurrection won’t surprise you.” (Justin Whitmel Earley).

Unless death makes you shudder, new life will never make you want to sing. Unless you see that without Christ all is ash, you won’t see that with Christ all is now promised newness. So, to understand the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus we must first journey together into death, the parts of life that both scare us and hold us captive from true living - thinking, meditating, and praying over them. Over the next six weeks, as a church family we will walk this journey towards death, but we will do this alongside Jesus, who, thankfully, walked this road before us.

Jesus went down to defeat the enemy of death so that our journey might end upwards in the victory of resurrection. Lent is our time to practice just that - the journey downwards, which leads upwards.

# *Using the Prayer Guide*

As we journey together over the next six weeks, this guide is designed to help you think, pray, mourn, and celebrate the death to self and the life Jesus gives.

Each week you'll find a focused passage of scripture with prayer, quotes, and a communal practice to compliment it. Daily readings are also provided to deepen engagement as we journey towards the cross and prepare our hearts for Easter. The Lenten practices are designed to encourage each of us to "stop" something as way of sacrifice, while inviting us to "start" something, forming us into the life and lifestyle of Jesus.

You can use this guide wherever you might find yourself - in the middle of hectic days, in the car before school pick-up, in the office around the break room table, and anywhere in between. The goal is to help you fight for time to be quiet and hear from God's word and the Holy Spirit.

The challenge during the Lenten season is not to look at your devices until after you've spent a few minutes in scripture. Perhaps you add a reminder on your phone to not open it until you've read God's word and invited him into your day. The call is to put scripture and Spirit before all else during this season.

At Ellerslie, we are here to support you in this journey! Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

# Week One

february 18 - 24

Practice | Background Noise  
Reading | Psalm 30

We are constantly surrounded by background noise, whether its music, television, tik-tok, reels, or the busy world going on around us. What if instead of filling our surroundings with background noise, we got comfortable with silence? Take time to experience silence and comprehend how to be more present with the people around you. Replace your need for noise with prayer and scripture, attuning yourself to the still small voice of God.

## prayer

Jesus, my Way and my Guide, you walked through death so we could be raised to life. May I follow you without fear of suffering or death. Show me that the way down is the way up.

## thoughts

“No creature, none of its actions and abilities, can reach or encompass God’s nature. Consequently, a soul must strip itself of everything pertaining to creatures and of its actions and abilities so that when everything unlike and unconfirmed to God is cast out, it may receive the likeness of God. And the soul will receive this likeness because nothing contrary to the will of God will be left in it. Thus, it will be transformed in God.” | **John of the Cross**

“It is not speaking that breaks our silence, but the anxiety to be heard. The words of the proud man impose silence on all others, so that he alone may be heard. The humble man speaks only in order to be spoken to.” | **Thomas Merton**

## daily readings

**Monday** | Psalm 51:1-17

**Tuesday** | Isaiah 58:1-12

**Wednesday** | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**Thursday** | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Friday** | 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

**Saturday** | Colossians 3:1-11

# Week Two

february 25 - march 3

Practice | Verbal Habits

Reading | Psalm 25

week two

Swearing. Jealousy. Lying. Gossip. Anger. We all have tendencies to use our words in ways that cut others deeply. Scripture calls on those who follow Jesus to guard their words closely. This week, consider how you use or do not use your words to glorify Jesus and build up others. Replace verbal habits with practices that centre around thankfulness and love.

## prayer

Jesus, God who became small, may you become greater, and I less. Help me to forget myself, that I might remember you.

## thoughts

"Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man He will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: He will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, He is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that He seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: He will not be thinking about himself at all." | **C. S. Lewis**

## daily readings

**Monday** | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**Tuesday** | Isaiah 65:17-25

**Wednesday** | John 20:1-18

**Thursday** | Luke 24:1-12

**Friday** | Acts 10:34-43

**Saturday** | James 3

# Week Three

march 3 - 9

Practice | Personal Spending  
Reading | Psalm 51

Materialism. What brings you satisfaction? Is your security found in the objects of life and your power found in your finances (or lack thereof)? This week, think about why you spend money and what grip it might have on your life. If you have little or you have much, how can you tame your personal leisure spending this week in order to die to self?

## prayer

Jesus, Holy One, convict me to see, name, and turn from my sin. I want to repent and believe. Help my stubbornness, help my unbelief.

## thoughts

“When it is in your power to do good, withhold not, because alms [assistances] deliver from death” | **Polycarp of Smyrna**

“The world asks, ‘What does a man own?’; Christ asks, ‘How does he use it?’” | **Andrew Murray**

## daily readings

**Monday** | 2 Chronicles 7:12-18a

**Tuesday** | Psalm 126

**Wednesday** | Mathew 6:19-34

**Thursday** | Mark 12:41-44

**Friday** | Luke 12:13-21

**Saturday** | James 3:13-18, 5:1-18



# Week Four

**march 10 - 16**

**Practice | Fast One Meal Per Day**

**Reading | Psalm 42**

week four

It's through this time of hunger that we can reflect upon the real hunger in our lives. Spend your morning in prayer and scripture reading. When you're sitting at the kitchen table, instead of enjoying a meal, enjoy a time of prayer and thanksgiving. It's in our time of need and hunger that we really understand how we need God and how significant His daily bread is for us.

## prayer

Jesus, Bread of Life, lead me through my emptiness that I might find life to the fullest in you.

## thoughts

“‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,’ taught Jesus. Only when we understand that we are utterly needy because what we imagine we possess is not truly ours, regardless of appearances; only when we see that we cannot keep good health permanently and that our very being is rooted simply in God’s creative love; only when we recognize that everything we call ‘our own’ is but a constant, sustaining gift of the Spirit - only then are we free. Obedience consists in nurturing and living out such poverty of spirit. Freedom is the fruit - to give and receive in the same spirit of non-possessive love God has given us.” | **Marjorie J. Thomps**

## daily readings

**Monday** | Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

**Tuesday** | Psalm 27

**Wednesday** | Matthew 6:1-18

**Thursday** | Luke 13:1-9

**Friday** | Romans 6:1-14

**Saturday** | Gal 5:16-17, Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

# Week Five

march 17 - 23

Practice | Leisure Screens

Reading | Psalm 16

Often the first thing and the last thing we turn to everyday is a screen; watching Netflix, scrolling social media, or keeping up to date with the news. Our personal devices can become the replacement for the world and those around us. This week find ways to foster personal and spiritual connections instead of tuning out.

## prayer

Jesus, Word of God, quiet my voice and my heart, that I might have ears to hear you.

## thoughts

“Just as a physician might say that there is very likely not one single living human being who is completely healthy, so anyone who really knows mankind might say there is not one single living human being who does not secretly harbour an unrest, an inner strife, a disharmony, an anxiety about an unknown something or something he does not even dare to try to know. An anxiety about some possibility in existence or an anxiety about himself, an anxiety he cannot explain.”

| Søren Kierkegaard

## daily readings

**Monday** | Psalm 32

**Tuesday** | Lamentations 3:22-40

**Wednesday** | Joshua 5:9-12

**Thursday** | Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Friday** | 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

**Saturday** | 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

# Week Six

march 24 - 31

Practice | Personal Reflection  
Reading | Psalm 23

week six

Our Lenten practice this week is intentionally open ended - take time to reflect and examine yourself. Where are you still struggling to follow Jesus? What blind spots do you have that cause you to pridefully ignore what the Spirit is prompting of you? Where are you ignorant and unsure of the sin in your life?

## prayer

Jesus, Resurrected Lamb of God who defeated death, overcome the darkness and death that clings to me, and show me the light of the resurrection life.

## thoughts

“The point of the resurrection is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die. What you do in the present by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself - will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom.”

| N.T. Wright

## daily readings

**Monday** | Isaiah 56:1-8, Luke 19:41-48

**Tuesday** | Psalm 110, Luke 20

**Wednesday** | Luke 21, Mark 14: 1-11

**Thursday** | Isaiah 50:4-10, Luke 22:1-71

**Good Friday** | Psalm 22:1-18, Luke 23:1-56

**Holy Saturday** | Isaiah 53, Luke 23:56

**Easter Sunday** | Isaiah 25:8, Luke 24

# Staff Team

## lead team

Dave Schmidt, Lead Pastor  
[dschmidt@erbc.ca](mailto:dschmidt@erbc.ca) (ext. 106)

Joel Jacobs  
Senior Associate Pastor  
[jjacobs@erbc.ca](mailto:jjacobs@erbc.ca) (ext. 101)

Kelsey Weisberg  
Children's Pastor  
[kweisberg@erbc.ca](mailto:kweisberg@erbc.ca) (ext. 112)

Russ McDermott  
Executive Director of Operations  
[rmcdermott@erbc.ca](mailto:rmcdermott@erbc.ca) (ext. 100)

## youth ministry

Conrad Gengenbach, Youth Director  
[conrad@erbc.ca](mailto:conrad@erbc.ca) (ext. 109)

Drew Owen, Youth Intern  
[dowen@erbc.ca](mailto:dowen@erbc.ca)

## worship arts

Kolten Zenner  
Worship Arts Pastor  
[kzenner@erbc.ca](mailto:kzenner@erbc.ca) (ext. 111)

Nathan Budge  
Technical Director  
[nbudge@erbc.ca](mailto:nbudge@erbc.ca) (ext. 110)

## starlight ministry

Charlene Dong  
Starlight Ministry Director  
[cdong@erbc.ca](mailto:cdong@erbc.ca) (ext. 114)

Qinxing "Charlie" Zhou  
Starlight Ministry Assistant  
[czhou@erbc.ca](mailto:czhou@erbc.ca) (ext. 118)

## children's ministry

Kim Slack  
Elementary Coordinator  
[kslack@erbc.ca](mailto:kslack@erbc.ca) (ext. 116)

Lisa Hart  
Early Childhood Coordinator  
[lhart@erbc.ca](mailto:lhart@erbc.ca) (ext. 103)

Maria Togade-Paredes  
Children's Ministry Assistant  
[maria@erbc.ca](mailto:maria@erbc.ca) (ext. 117)

## adult ministry

David Holzmann  
Adult Ministries Pastor  
[dholzmann@erbc.ca](mailto:dholzmann@erbc.ca) (ext. 105)

Michelle Jacobs  
First Impressions Coordinator  
[mjacobs@erbc.ca](mailto:mjacobs@erbc.ca) (ext. 115)

Rick Foster  
Pastoral Care | Traditions Worship Director  
[rfoster@erbc.ca](mailto:rfoster@erbc.ca) (ext. 113)

## support staff

Ava Meng, Financial Administrator  
[ameng@erbc.ca](mailto:ameng@erbc.ca) (ext. 104)

Edgar Vallardes - Custodian

Hazel Robinson, Office Administrator  
[hrobinson@erbc.ca](mailto:hrobinson@erbc.ca) (ext. 107)

Jenna Schmidt, Communications Assistant  
[jschmidt@erbc.ca](mailto:jschmidt@erbc.ca) (ext. 108)

Raquel Vazquez - Custodian

Renelle Gray, Administrative Assistant  
[rgray@erbc.ca](mailto:rgray@erbc.ca) (ext. 119)