

# My 2024 COMMITMENT

1. **Pray at least twice a week using the Life Support Prayer Calendar.** We encourage at least once gathered with other Christians, as two or more.
2. **Encourage other individuals in your congregation to join in the Life Support Prayer ministry.** Notify PPL of those who are interested in commitment.
3. **Encourage congregational prayers** to protect preborn children, for the care of their mothers and families, as well as for the aged and those suffering with chronic disease or disability.
4. As you are led, **renew your Life Support commitment** annually.

## PPL is so grateful for your prayers!

We know that the seasons of your life change. If you are unable to continue your commitment to PPL's prayer team, please contact us and we will remove you from these mailings.



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# LIFE SUPPORT PRAYER CALENDAR

SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC.  
2024 | VOL. 37 | NO. 3



## LUKE 2:25-32 ESV

***"Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ..., and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'"***

# The Sight of Christ

By Carla van Eyk, PPL Executive Director

When an older person of faith, such as Simeon, pronounces a heartfelt blessing over you and your child, it encourages your young family to trust God for the anticipated demands of parenting in the times of a troubled world. Simeon prophesied by the Holy Spirit that Jesus, himself, was uniquely "appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ... so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." Even while Mary may have been pondering what Simeon meant when he said to her, "a sword will pierce through your own soul also," the Holy Spirit drew the prophetess Anna with rejoicing toward Mary, Joseph, and eight-day-old Jesus (Luke 2:34-38 ESV).

Anna, a longtime widow well-advanced in years, overflowed with a worshipful heart of thanksgiving to God for this long-expected redemption of her people. Her faith-filled prayers and fasting, day and night, at the temple in Jerusalem had prepared her to hunger for what the Lord had satisfied in that special encounter with the newborn King. Her exuberant rejoicing and profession of faith must have been contagious for all those awaiting the promised Messiah in her midst! "[The righteous] are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green ..." (Psalm 92:13-14 ESV).

May we at any age follow the example of our elder saints Simeon and Anna, who lived by faith in God's Word and His promise of a coming Messiah. Similarly, as Anna, may we find opportunity to speak of faith in our returning Savior, "the King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16 ESV). Likewise, as Simeon, may we seek to be and give a blessing to new parents or those in need of the Lord's encouraging word. May we, the body of believers, fast and pray expectant prayers for God's Kingdom to come and the deliverance from evil, while seeking to do His will all our earthly days. As Simeon, Anna, and other saints before us, may we seek to live lives set apart for God's purposes and His glory. Bride of Christ, please join us this season leading up to Advent and through year's end to pray fervent prayers for blessing the new generations to come.

*The Life Support Prayer Calendar prayer prompts are authored by Rev. Justin Marple, PPL Board Member, (Sept.-Oct.), and Ray Dunkelberg, M.D., PPL Board Member, (Nov.-Dec.). PPL's Life Support Prayer Calendar at ppl.org is updated weekly for online use. Downloads of a bimonthly calendar are available there as well.*

## SEPTEMBER

### Sept. 1 - 7:

*Holy One of Israel, we give You thanks for Jesus the Messiah, the prophesied shoot from the stump of Jesse more powerful than the serpent, for upon Him the Spirit of the Lord rested even as a preborn baby, a nursing infant, and a weaned child. (Isaiah 11:1-10)*

Heavenly Father, fill us with Your Spirit so that we will be able to speak Your powerful word to those who feel powerless and in distress so that they will seek and know Jesus the Messiah and inquire of Him and hear true and life-giving wisdom.

### Sept. 8 - 14:

*Holy One of Israel, we give You thanks for Jesus the Messiah, who "had no form or majesty that we should look at Him or beauty that we should desire Him. ... But he was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:1-5).*

Heavenly Father, "all we like sheep have gone astray and turned to our own way." Help us and all those we meet to see that He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows to the cross so that we might live in peace and be healed.

### **(Isaiah 53:5-6)**

### Sept. 15 -21:

*Holy One of Israel, we give You thanks for Jesus the Messiah, the prophesied ruler and shepherd of Your people, who came forth from eternity to be born in Bethlehem as foretold. (Micah 5:2-5)*

Heavenly Father, fill us with the Spirit of power so that Jesus the Messiah would be our peace and security and we can bring His peace and security to those with real fears and concerns about the present and future.

### Sept. 22 - 28:

*Holy One of Israel, we rejoice greatly for Jesus the Messiah, the prophesied king whose coming marked the end of the Exile even as a preborn baby riding on a donkey in His mother's womb. (Zechariah 9:9)*

Heavenly Father, fill us with Your Spirit to hear Jesus the Messiah "speak peace to the nations from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth. ... set prisoners free because of the blood of Your covenant." Embolden us to share this good news of peace and life to those considering violence and death. **(Zechariah 9:10-11)**

## OCTOBER

### Sept. 29 - Oct. 5:

*Great "I am who I am," there is no one like You. "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God." We rejoice in Your salvation—we rejoice for new life. (1 Samuel 2:1b-2)*

Father, you give and take away life; help us to always see preborn children as a blessing and comfort those who are barren and those who grieve the loss of these little ones, as we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Messiah who now sits at Your right hand in heaven.

### **(1 Samuel 2:1-10)**

### Oct. 6 - 12:

*God with us, we give You thanks and praise for the Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, adopted by the just man Joseph, and given the name Jesus by the angel for He would save His people from their sins.*

### **(Matthew 1:18-24)**

Father, may the world know that You are with us as we serve women in Jesus' name who find themselves to be pregnant in a world full of troubles and as we serve men in Jesus' name who find themselves wondering whether they should stay with women who choose life.

### Oct. 13 - 19:

*Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom the prophecy concerning John the Baptist pointed even before John's conception in the barren womb of Elizabeth. (Luke 1:5-17)*

Father, many make unwise choices and decide to be disobedient rather than to prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to be prepared for His coming, fill us with the Spirit of power to point the world to Jesus, and make us a joyful and glad people who rejoice at the birth of children created in Your image.

### Oct. 20 - 26:

*Holy One of Israel, "the people who walk in darkness have seen a great light, ... for to us a Son is given and His name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:2,6).*

Lord of Hosts, in Your zeal, may You reign in justice in every home; bring peace and righteousness to the minds and hearts of those considering violence, and lead us to fearlessly bring light into the darkness.

## NOVEMBER

### Oct. 27-Nov. 2:

*"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it". (John 1: 4-5). Victorious Lord, we praise you that you have overcome and light the path we follow.*

Abortion takes more human life in the world than any other cause. Lord, grant us wisdom, courage, and strength to speak grace and truth so that we might help shine your light into our fallen, dark, and chaotic world.

### Nov. 3 - 9:

*"All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). Creator God, we praise you that all whom you create are precious in your sight.*

Father, remind us that this same Christ has a tender heart for little children and calls them (and us) to be his own. Help us train up our children to follow Your ways.

### Nov. 10 - 16:

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, ... so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). Father, we thank you for your plan of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. We praise and thank you for being adopted in Him. Holy Spirit, help us all to speak and be, within our circle of influence, a part of Your redemptive plan unfolding.*

### Nov. 17 - 23:

*"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. ... He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:29-30). Father, just as John the Baptist recognized that his cousin Jesus (the Bridegroom) was indeed the Messiah and that his (John's) ministry would become less important, help us to be more realistic about our own self-importance. Forgive our pride. Holy Spirit, we pray you would pull us more deeply into the beauty and hope and power of your Kingdom work.*

### Nov. 24 - 30:

*"And the angel [Gabriel] answered her, 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God.' And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:35-37). Holy God, we praise you for teaching us that human life begins at conception, just as it did for your only Son! (continue)*

## DECEMBER

### Nov. 24 - 30: (cont.)

Sovereign Lord, we lift to you the heartbreak of loss for those who long to have children or for those who have held the lifeless body of their own beloved. Please comfort and renew their hope for the future.

### Dec. 1 - 7:

*"And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25: 40). Now in this Advent season help us visualize Mary in her final month of pregnancy. Father, we praise you for that miracle and the "least of these" miracles that occurs in every womb.*

Almighty God, protect expectant mothers and fathers everywhere; nurture the preborn by your Holy Spirit.

### Dec. 8 - 14:

*"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ... [crying] 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Luke 1:41-42).*

Preborn John and his mother Elizabeth both recognize and celebrate the preborn Jesus in Mary's womb. Praise you, Holy Spirit, for blessings you prompt!

Help us, Lord, to be an instrument of blessing and help to single parents and their children.

### Dec. 15 - 21:

*"And Zechariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years'"*

**(Luke 1:18).** Praise God, who knits us up in the womb on his timetable. Miracle after miracle begins in the womb!

Lord, let us not be, as Zechariah was to become, mute in celebrating this reality of your unexpected blessing.

### Dec. 22 - 28, Dec. 29 - Jan. 4

*Lord God of Israel, we give You thanks, for our eyes have seen Your salvation in the Messiah Jesus that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. (Luke 2:22-38)*

Heavenly Father, make us righteous and devout, fill us with Your Spirit, use us to speak of Jesus the Messiah to all who will listen, and speak to us in Your Word day by day until we see death.

(Final two weeks' prayer prompts by Rev. Justin Marple, PPL Board)