

COMMUNITY PRAYER GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 10th-16th, 2018

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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As followers of Christ we commit ourselves to praying throughout the year. However we acknowledge that it's also good to join together as the church for extended times of prayer, expressing unity in our desire for God's will to be done in the world. From September 10th-16th we'll be joining together as a church to pray for one another, our church, our city, and the world.

This booklet may be used in whatever ways you find it most helpful:

You can use it alone to center your thoughts for the day.

You can move through it with your family and friends around the dinner table.

You can talk about it with your friends and start to practice praying together.

Each of these pages and ideas is meant for the whole church body to pray together as we listen for God's direction and nourishment in our lives, in our church, in our community, and in our world. You are invited to use whichever pieces of the guide you find helpful.

In the first section, you will find a series of prayers, scriptures, and considerations around specific themes to shape your prayer times. These are very old prayers, spoken by Christians for hundreds of years.

If you find that you would prefer to focus your attention a little differently, you will find a list of specific prayer requests in the second section of the booklet. Feel free to form prayers around any of these items throughout the week.

Finally, you may wish to engage in a contemplative prayer practice through art. At the back of this booklet you'll find some colouring pages paired with some smaller bits of scripture. Consider the scripture as you begin to shade in the page, allowing yourself to focus on one prayer item for each colour you use. As you change colours, release your petition to God before moving on to something new. This may be a good way to pray as a family, with each family member taking a turn with a different colour to represent their prayers.

We hope you find something in the guide that resonates with you and moves you deeper into a life of following Jesus.

So as we begin, let's pray:

Almighty God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless till they rest in you;
grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish pattern may hinder us
from knowing your will nor any weakness from doing it;
but that in your light we may see the light clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Day One – **PRESENCE** – (n) the state of fact of existing, occurring, or being present

CONSIDER

Sometimes we think that we can only connect with God in set places like church or maybe a special room or space in your home. God is present with you and will be through out your day. Consider how you live out your Monday knowing God is present with you in all places. Connect to Him in prayer often and in whatever activities you are participating. As you pray for the things you see and experience, consider the ways that God sees the world and the ways you are invited to see things in a fresh way.

From the PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK

I arise today through
God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's hosts to save me
From snares of the devil,
And from temptations of vices.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every one who think of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.
Amen.

READ Psalm 23, Psalm 139

PRAY Use the Prayer of St. Patrick to shape your prayers today.

Pray that you would receive a greater awareness of God with you today. May this awareness give you peace whatever the day brings.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would prompt you to considerate action; that your knowledge and relationship with God would be demonstrated in how you chose to act and react to the people and situations you meet today.

Pray for the world, that Christians globally would not be spectators but actively involved in demonstrating God's kingdom; that believers everywhere would be agents of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Day Two – AGENCY – (n) action or intervention producing a particular effect

CONSIDER

In the letter to the Romans the apostle Paul talks about Christians no longer having the excuse of being blind to the consequences of sin. When we ignore or write off our actions or unhelpful speech as unimportant in the world around us we make the statement that we are unwilling to surrender our will and our action to God's purpose. As children of God, we need to be aware of how we are representing the good news of Jesus in our world at all times.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument
Of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
Let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

READ: Matthew 5:3-16, 1 John 1:5-7

PRAY: Use the Prayer of St. Francis to shape your prayers today.

Pray that God would show you what gifts you have to offer and ways to use them in your present circumstances. Pray too that the Holy Spirit would make you aware of places of hardness, prejudice, indifference or oppression in yourself, that you might have new eyes to see how God loves all of creation.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would show you the places of oppression, hurt, and despair in your schools, workplaces, families, and in your friend groups that would benefit from the light and hope we find in Christ.

Pray for the world, that an understanding of and desire for the peace of Christ would take root in people around the world; that selfish ambition would lose its hold over governments and regimes worldwide, and that globally we might see the a world alive with the hope of Christ.

Day Three – **ATTENTION** – (n) Concentration of the mental powers upon an object; a close or careful observing or listening.

CONSIDER

Our world can be a noisy place, full of conflicting information and many demands on how we should act, what we should listen to, who we should hang around with, and what we should value as important in our culture. All of these demands and expectations can be paralyzing and overwhelming. God promises to guide us in faithful, gentle, and often quiet ways (1Kings 19) to remind us of how we are called to live and move in the world. In our culture, that is exactly the kind of voice we tend to miss hearing as we run to different activities and have to be paying attention to the voice of the Holy Spirit, which helps us still the noise that keeps us distracted from our hope in Christ.

THE PRAYER OF BENEDICT OF NURSIA

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

READ Matthew 8:23-27, Ephesians 5:1-20

PRAY Use the Prayer of Benedict to help you focus your prayers today.

Pray for a release from apathy today. Ask that you would find some quiet from any voices that would distract you from being ready to hear and obey the voice of God.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would be noticeably at work in the people in your neighborhood. Ask that God would show you how to take greater notice of people and their circumstances in the houses near you.

Pray for ongoing global events. If it helps you, try praying as you read the news to see where God is at work in each headline. As you pray, ask that God would move you out of a place of detachment into a place of empathy and action in the world. Ask that God would continually remind you to be in prayer for the world. May we be the kind of people who are willing to speak love into hatred and who trust God to be our strength in overwhelming and trying times.

Day Four – **TRUST** – (n) To believe in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of an outside entity.

CONSIDER

As Jesus teaches in Matthew 6 prayer shifts us from needing attention to be on ourselves and our need for affirmation, and moves us toward understanding that God is in control. It also lets us see bigger picture of redemption in which we can take part when we rely on God rather than our own abilities.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today
Our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power
And the glory forever.
Amen.

READ Isaiah 26:7-9, John 3:29-36

PRAY Use the Lord's Prayer to guide your prayer time today, allowing yourself time to pray through each idea presented, keeping the focus on the idea of alignment with God's plans.

Pray that God would speak clearly to you today and help you to be less concerned for self-preservation and more able to affirm God's power in your life.

Pray that the example of forgiveness in the church would spill out into the streets of Saskatoon. Pray for leaders in the church, that Emmanuel would be attentive and obedient to care and serve in the specific places God has called us to. Pray that our church community would be people who listen and act on what God is teaching us.

Pray for missionaries around the world who obey God's calling to share the Gospel in difficult circumstances. Ask for safety, patience, and encouragement as they serve. Pray that Christians around the world might be encouraged as we lay down our agendas and plans in order to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us and provide all that we need as we aim to think, speak, and enact the Gospel in all circumstances.

Day Five – **REPENTANCE** – (n) Remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; to be contrite.

CONSIDER

Often in the gospels we hear Jesus offering healing and forgiveness to different people with the sending “go and sin no more” (e.g. John 8). Before we can be set free from our sins we need to confess our wrongdoing. The Good News for us is that Jesus invites us to come boldly before God and ask for grace (Ephesians 3) in his name. As we’ve been forgiven we’re called to live in a new way that seeks to honour God and proclaim him as our King.

A BAPTIST CONFSSIONAL PRAYER

Lord, we remember the depth of your love for us,
and we repent of our half-hearted discipleship.

We have been called to deny ourselves:
forgive us for putting self-interest
before the interests of your kingdom;
forgive us that Christ’s Lordship in our hearts
has been challenged by our ambition, our appetites,
our desires, and our needs;
forgive us for the times when self-interest
hindered our care for others.

Lord, we have been called to carry a cross:
forgive us for complaining when it has weighed heavily upon us;
forgive us that, having received so much,
we have sacrificed so little;
forgive us for the limits we have set to Christian love;
forgive us that we have settled for mediocrity,
resisting the fire and passion of Christ’s love upon the cross.

READ Psalm 51, Joel 2:12-13, Romans 12

PRAY Using the above confessional prayer, take some time today to think about what a restart looks like as you move from old patterns of sin to new creation.

Pray for transformation in your own life, taking the time to confess lingering sins and patterns that move you away from God. Take the time to ask God to show you what needs to be changed in your attitudes and actions and make apologies where they are needed to mend relationships.

Pray for those who have been hurt in your community today: for those suffering as a result of lies, bullying, brokenness, or shame. Ask that God would give them rest, mercy, and fresh perspective to live lives that honour God. Ask that God would be made known to your friends through your life. Pray that God would show you how to love the people you meet well, demonstrating a sincere and profound hope in Christ.

Pray thanking God for the love He has for humanity. Pray about patterns we fall into in North America that makes us think we can squander our resources at the expense of our brothers and sisters around the world. Pray for systems of oppression to change to reflect the Peace of Christ.

Suggested Needs for Prayer – Fall 2018

Below are prayer concerns from the various ministries, missions and departments of Emmanuel to help guide your prayer time.

ELDERS

- That each of our elders would be Spirit-filled, humble, servant leaders.
- For wisdom and vision for long-range planning.
- For wise stewardship of finances and other resources.
- For protection and blessing for elders and their families.

STAFF

- That each of our pastors and staff would be Spirit-filled, humble, servant leaders. Pray for wisdom, grace, creativity, and passion for each of them as they serve in their various roles through a season of change:
- **Brendon:** Executive Pastor & Lead Pastor of the Morning Congregation
- **Rob:** Pastor of The Connection & Creative Arts and Worship
- **Robin:** Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry & Adult Discipleship
- **Kari:** Director of Care & Community Engagement, Creative Arts Associate & College and Career
- **Beverly:** Director of Family Ministry & Children's Ministry
- **Jana-Lyn:** Director of Youth Ministry & Website
- **Lindsay:** Accountant & Administrator
- **Jan:** Administrative Assistant & Early Childhood Director
- **Christie:** Custodian
- Pray for protection and blessing for staff and their families.

MINISTRY LEADERS & ALL WHO SERVE

- Give thanks for all who lead and serve in various ministries in our church and beyond
- Pray for encouragement and joy in their service
- Pray that each of us will discern where God is calling us to serve and do so with enthusiasm

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- That each person in the EBC family would see themselves as partnering in mission with Jesus.
- ESL conversation classes as we welcome newcomers to Saskatoon and Canada (Cecilia Rajanayagam & Alan Barr)
- Scooters Indoor Playgroup (Elya Lam)
- The Alpha Course (Rob Arthur)
- The Marriage Course and Marriage Mentoring (Gary and Brenda Dewarle)
- The Marriage Preparation Course

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

- That God would create in us a deepening love for God, His Word, His people, and His world.
- That God would raise up more small group leaders and that more people would be truly known and supported in community.
- Heart Matters, Tuesday morning women's Bible study. (Laura Monchuk and the leadership team)
- Men's Ministries (Men's Ministry leadership team)
- The Journey/Walking with Others (Gary Teare, David Toth, Jane McPhee)

WORSHIP & CREATIVE ARTS

- That God would call new worship leaders and anoint the worship music each time we gather for worship.
- That God would grant creativity to Rob, Kari and the volunteers to explore various ways to help our people worship in spirit and in truth through different art forms.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

- Seniors who are shut-in and in hospital.
- Seniors who have lost loved ones during the past year, as well as those who are making major life transitions.
- InMotion – that we would care well for body and soul.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Pray for students to grow in their faith and love for God and reach out to their friends.
- Pray for students who have lost friends in the last few months.
- Pray that students of all backgrounds would feel genuinely welcomed here.
- Pray that students would engage in programming this year – that church wouldn't get lost in the busyness of homework and extra-curricular activities and expectations.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- That kids continue to be excited about learning more about God's big story of love.
- For parents as they seek to teach and model love for the Lord.
- For families to come alongside friends and relatives and invite them into church community.

CARE MINISTRY

- For grace & compassion for all people involved in Care Ministry
- For new support group leaders to volunteer
- For healing and growth for those receiving care through support groups
- That our Food Pantry might continue to help those in need of immediate groceries and provide points of genuine care and transformation in difficult circumstances.
- That God would provide needed volunteers for Food for Comfort and other practical care ministries.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- That Emmanuel would serve our immediate neighborhoods well, finding new ways to partner with Wildwood, Lakeview, Eastview, and Brevoort Park.
- For wisdom, creativity, and capacity to hear ideas and implement solutions that reflect love and acceptance in Jesus to our neighbours.

WELCOME MINISTRY

- Ushers, Greeters, Welcome Desk staff, and Coffee Bar servers – pray for encouragement and grace for them as they welcome and serve weekly, particularly those who are new to our community

PRAYER MINISTRY

- For boldness and sensitivity in praying for others
- For greater participation in various prayer opportunities

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

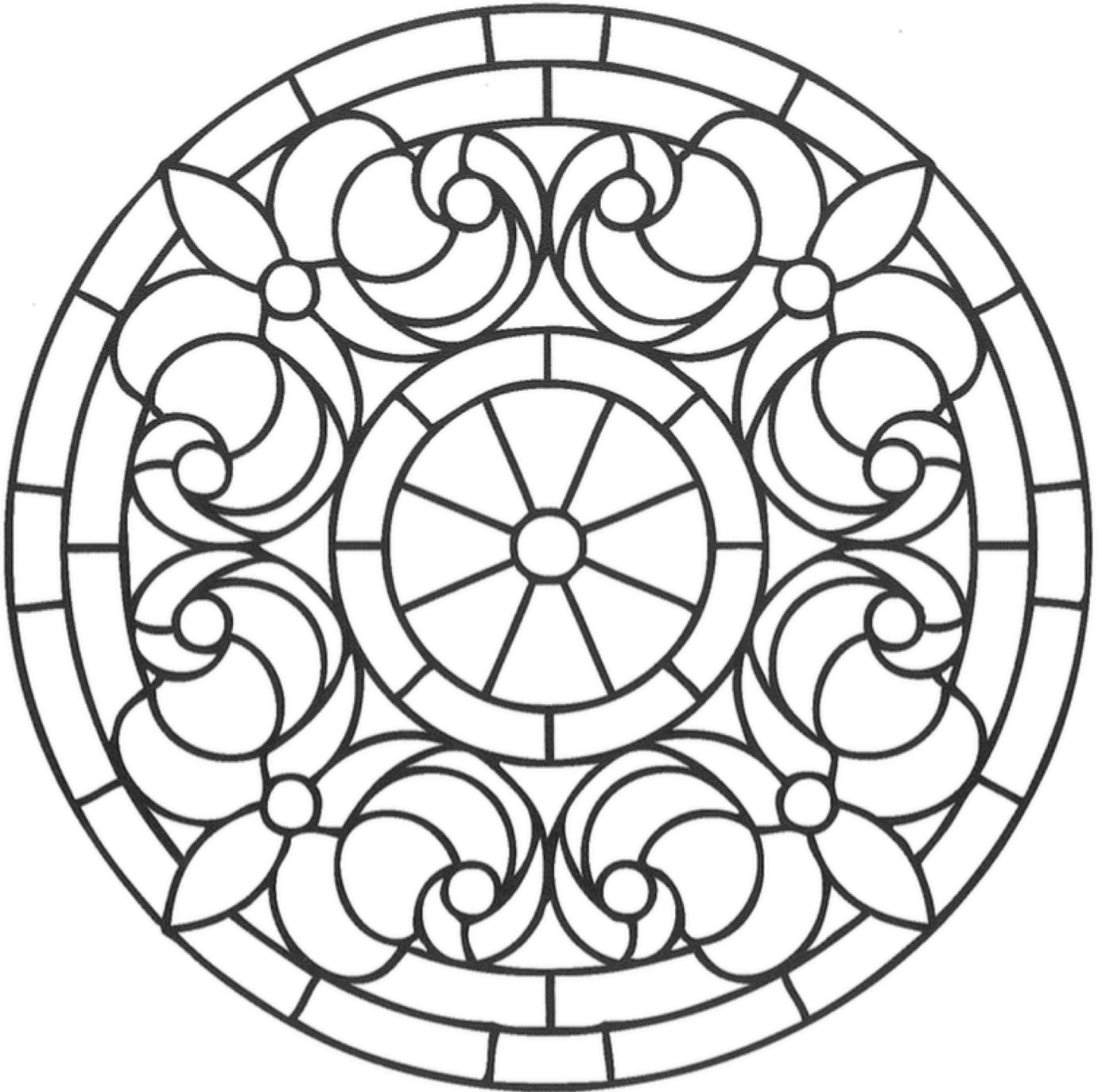
- The Bridge on 20th Street (Linda Walker)
- Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Center (Formerly Real Choices – Cathy LaFleche)
- The Quest at Christopher Lake
- Hope Restored Canada (Jody Kozan & Joeline Magill)
- Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship (Gerry & Shirley Falk)
- Campus Ministries at the U of S
- The Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre
- Canadian Blood Services
- Other community concerns

GLOBAL PARTNERS

- RWANDA:
 - Rev. Gato
 - Andre Sibomana
 - Children of Hope (orphaned & vulnerable children)
 - Guardians of Hope (ministry to people with AIDS/HIV positive)
 - Food security (to make sure that there is adequate food for the hungry)
 - The Bustin family.
- Those experiencing persecution because of their faith
- Other global concerns

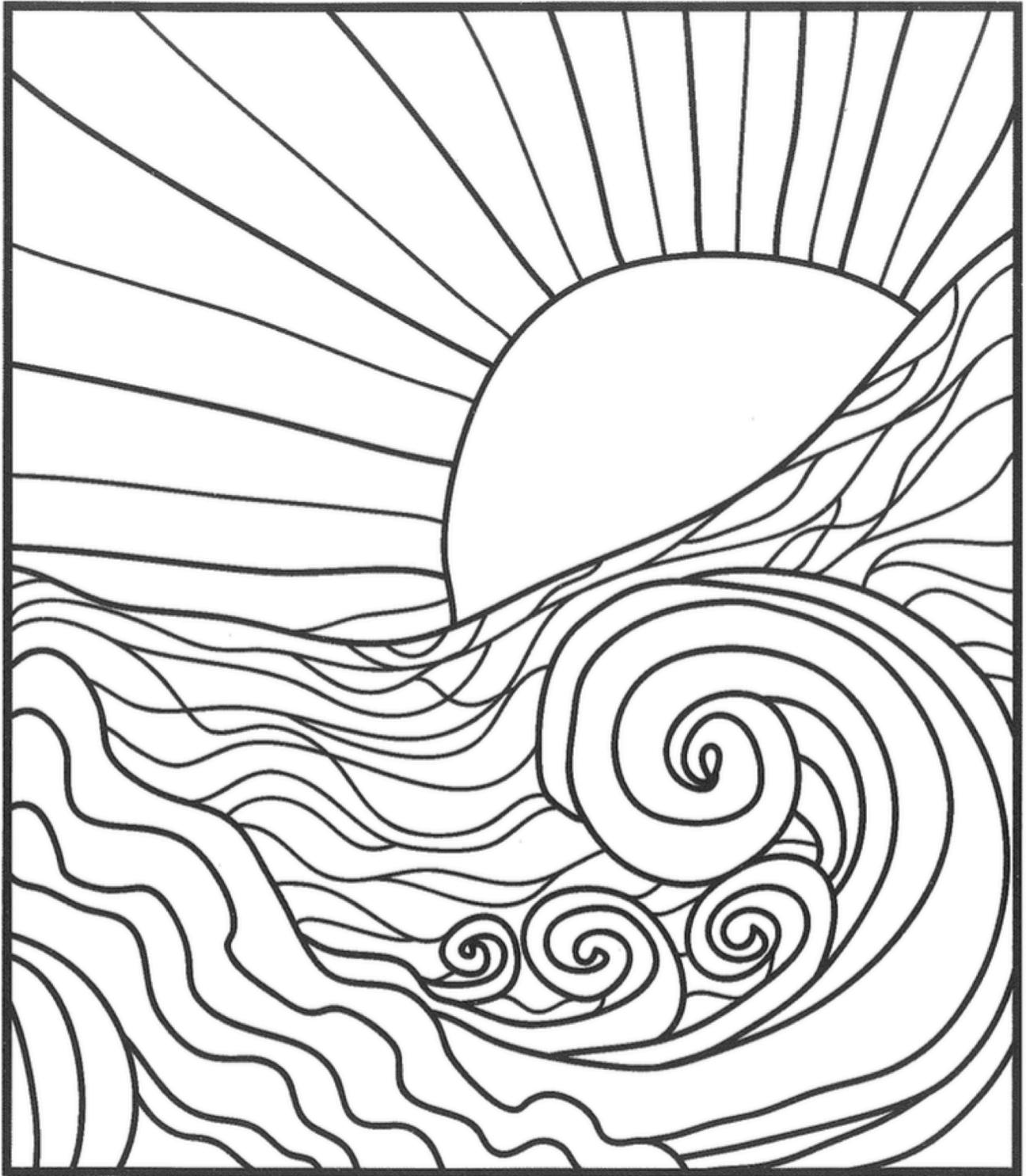
GOD'S HEART FOR OUR CHURCH

- That we would grow in our experience of God's love, and that his love would overflow to others
- For a readiness to walk in the Spirit, to pay attention to His promptings and to follow wherever He leads.
- That we would live into deeper understanding and expressions of our values (Scripture, Prayer, Generosity, Diversity, Community, Creativity, Justice, Outreach, and Love).
- That we would have wisdom, creativity, and tenderness as we continue to explore issues of reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.
- For a willingness to bear witness to Jesus in Word and Deed, demonstrating and sharing the good news of Jesus
- Concern and compassion for those who are hurting, poor or sick
- Healing for those who are sick
- Comfort for those who are grieving
- For singles to experience deep and rich companionship within our community
- For marriages and families to be strengthened.
- For the lonely to feel loved and embraced.
- That God would supply all of the resources for all that He calls us to do (volunteers, staff and finances).
- That many would come to know Jesus this year.
- That many would be baptized this year.
- That God would raise up and send out missionaries from our church.
- That those who have turned away from their faith would return to the Lord.
- That mature Christians would desire to mentor new and younger believers.
- That all persons will feel welcomed, known and loved within our community.



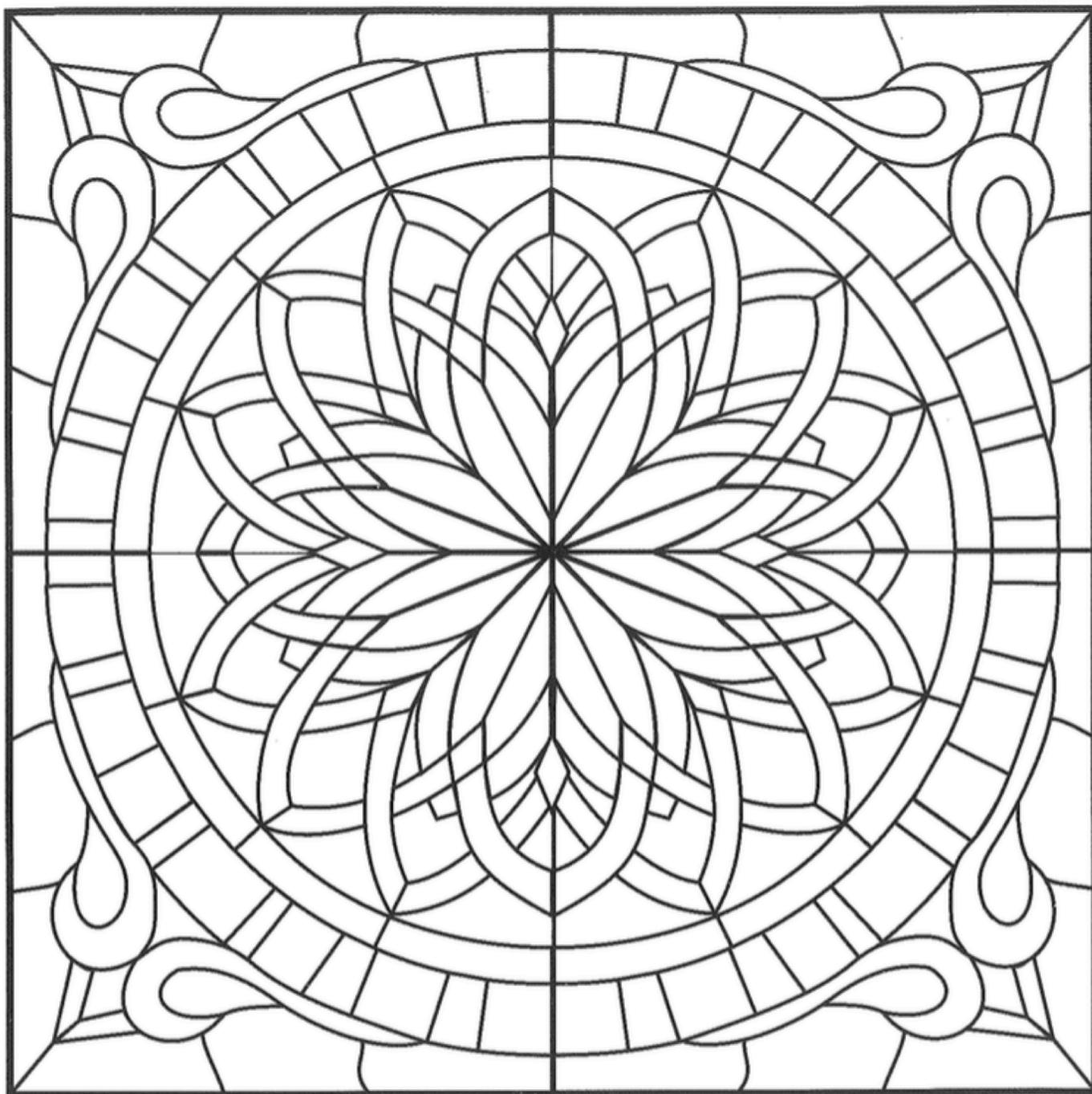
Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.



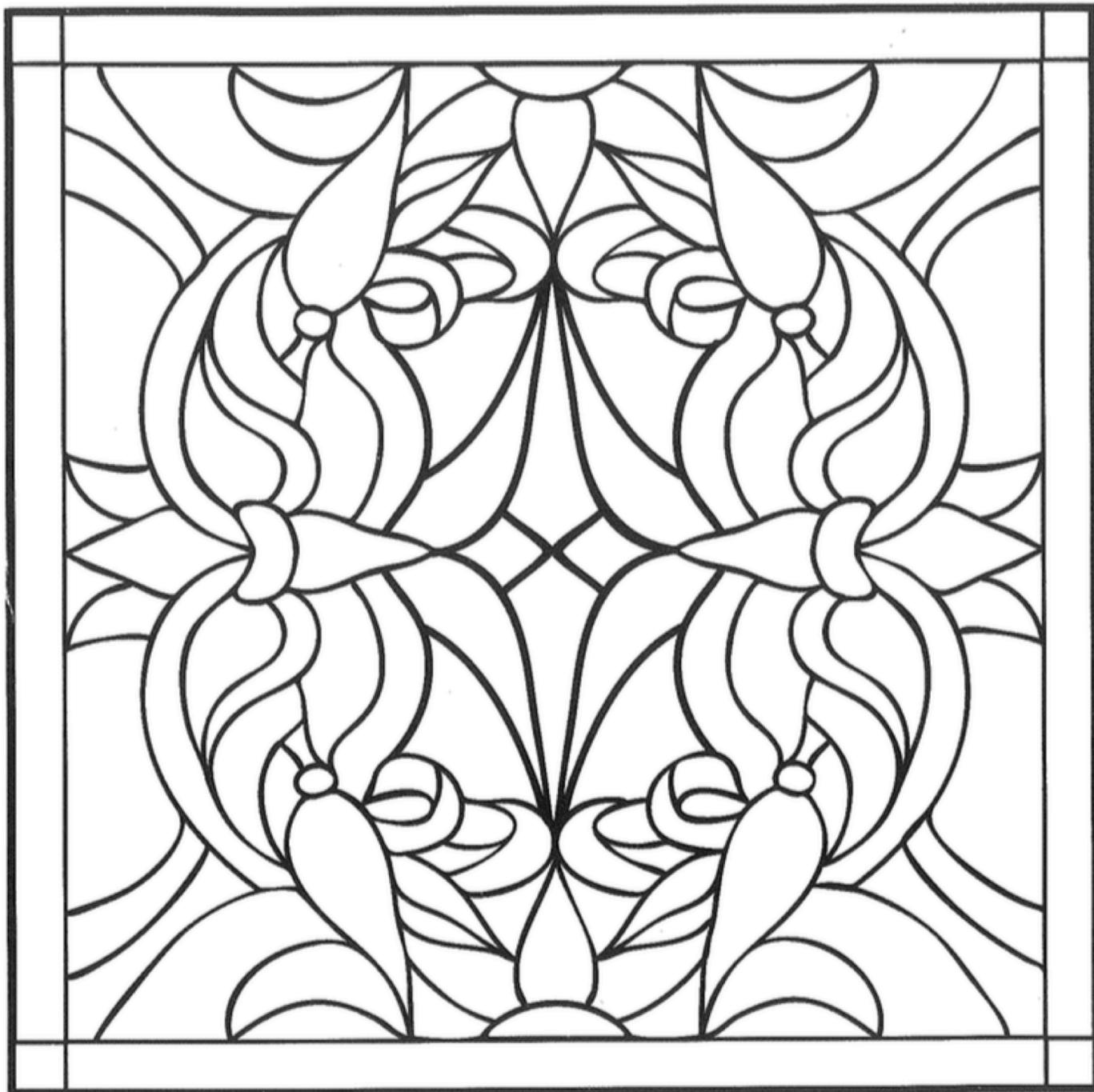
Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-20

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God... So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Isaiah 26:7-9

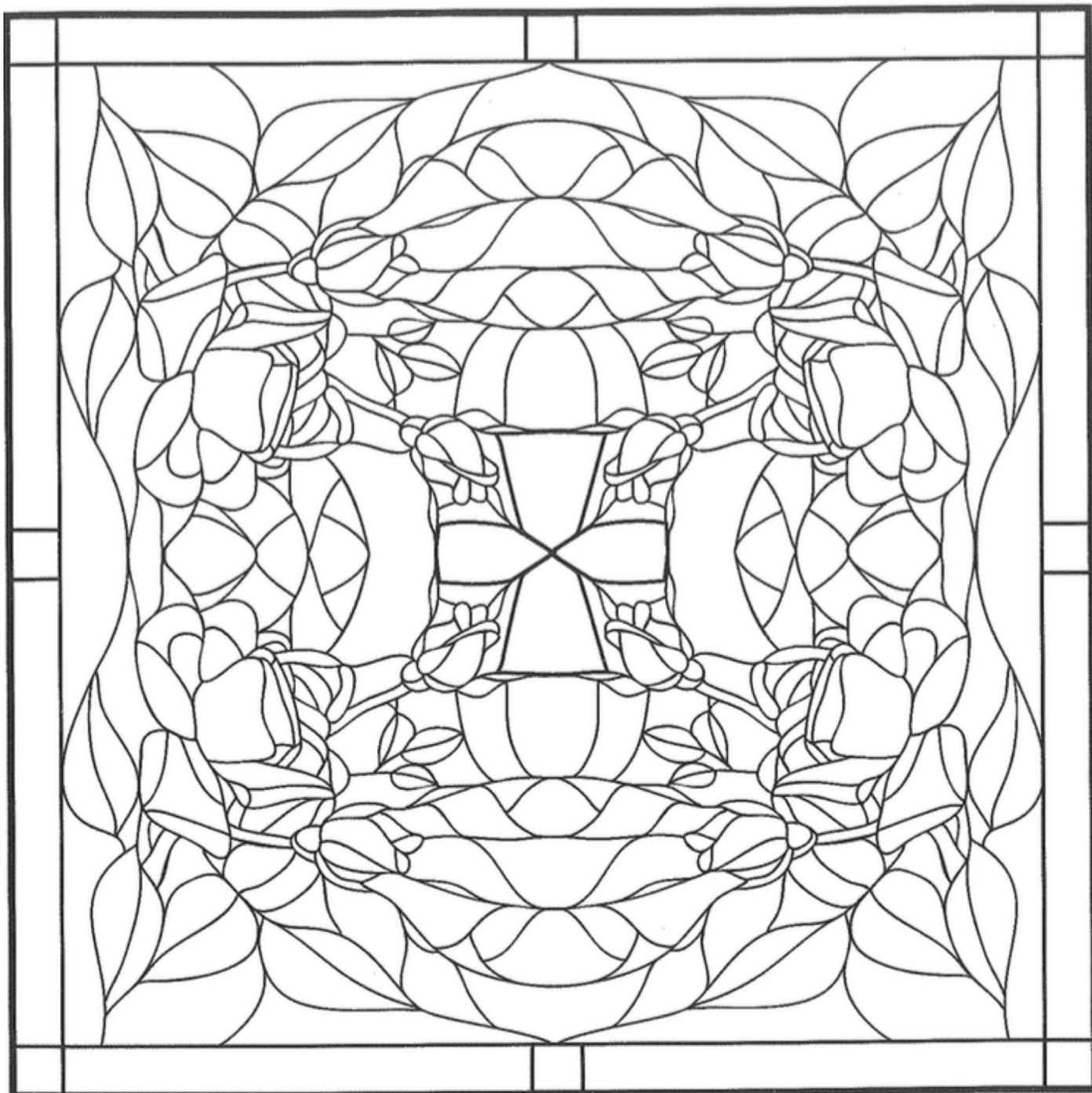
But for those who are righteous, the way is not steep and rough.
You are a God who does what is right, and you smooth out the path ahead of them.
LORD, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify your name.
In the night I search for you; in the morning I earnestly seek you.
For only when you come to judge the earth will people learn what is right.



Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”



Joel 2:12-13

That is why the LORD says,

“Turn to me now, while there is time.

Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.”

Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

OUR VISION

God-dependent, Jesus-Rooted, Spirit-Led

OUR MISSION

To fully love God and all people, for God's Kingdom, pleasure, and glory.

OUR VALUES

We value Scripture

We are committed to living under the authority of Scripture, allowing it to form our imagination, inform our identity, transform our living, and to communicating its truth and relevance in our current context.

We value Prayer

We are committed to cultivating a life of prayer through which we pay attention to the Holy Spirit, pursue Christ's kingdom, and submit to His lordship.

We value Generosity

We are committed to being a generous community, giving freely and cheerfully of our attention, abilities, resources, time, and spiritual gifts.

We value Diversity

We are committed to honouring the uniqueness of one another in mutual respect, love and hope for human wholeness.

We value Creativity

We are committed to affirming the role of the imagination and the arts in our community, and to exploring and expressing the life of the Holy Spirit in new and fresh ways.

We value Community

We are committed to being a community where all are welcomed, known and loved.

We value Outreach

We are committed to engaging the community beyond ourselves through actions and words that communicate the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We value Justice

We are committed to extending Christ's reign by paying attention to issues of injustice, advocating for the poor and powerless and working toward healing and reconciliation in our community and the world.

We value Love

We are committed to loving others, seeking their well-being with compassion and mercy.

