

# Risen

## H O P E

FIRST FRUITS  
JANUARY 2021

*Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.*

Hosea 6:1–3

*Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,  
let not the mighty man boast in his might,  
let not the rich man boast in his riches,  
but let him who boasts boast in this,  
that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD  
who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.  
For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.*

Jeremiah 9:23–24

*With my whole heart I seek you.*

Psalms 119:10

## FIRST FRUITS

The purpose of Risen Hope since the beginning has always been to know God and to show him in this world. That's the reason our church exists because it's reason we were created and the reason we were redeemed. Not only do the Scriptures tell us that this is our ultimate purpose, but Jesus reiterates that this is what it means to possess eternal life (John 17:3) and that this will be the culmination of God's work in this age (Habakkuk 2:14). The way God's people pursue this knowledge is through his word alone, practically experienced through the act of reading and prayer. This must be first in the lives of every Christian, and therefore it must be first in the life of our church.

As we enter into 2021, God is calling Risen Hope into a deeper pursuit of him. He's calling us to put first things first in our lives: namely, to truly know him, so that we might be able to show him in this world. To that end, throughout January, we're inviting the entire church family to offer this month to the Lord as first fruits through both prayer and fasting. As much as we are able, give God time this month in both **prayer**, seeking God from our hearts through our words to him, and **fasting**, abstaining from things your body physically needs for a brief season, instead giving that time not only to keenly feel our immediate need for God, but to pursue him with renewed zeal. "Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" – Deuteronomy 8:3.

In addition to this, every Sunday morning, 8am-10am, we will have a weekly prayer gathering, available in-person at the office or over Zoom. Details can be found [here](#). Below is a guide for prayer, beginning in our most immediate frame of view and expanding to include the world. This is not prescriptions for how to pray or what to pray for, but merely a helpful guide to surface things that we as a church keep close to our hearts. In all of these things, please pray for a deeper knowledge of God going into 2021. We must seek to know him, not just intellectually, but with all of our affections.

He is worthy of our great joy. Pray that we would all know him in this way.

### PRAY FOR OURSELVES:

- Thankfulness for God's grace in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Without it, there is no prayer.
- Thankfulness that we can approach our Father's throne boldly and sincerely because of Christ.
- Confession and repentance for any sin in our lives, whether individually or corporately.
- Ask God for the grace needed to rightly pursue holiness as one of his children.
- Desire to know and show God: that he would visibly be our greatest treasure in the world.
- Seek for joyful boldness to witness in both word and deed wherever God has placed us.
- Freedom from the tyranny of schedule and obligations, so that we can sacrificially love.
- Desire to receive any spiritual gifting that God would graciously impart to us.

### PRAY FOR OTHERS:

- Any individuals and families you know, especially whom the Spirit brings to mind.
- Those you know who are going through seasons of depression and anxiety.
- Those who are physically broken in some way and need the grace of healing.
- Those who are looking for work and an open door of God's provision in their lives.

- Those who are single: for God's purposes in their lives while they're single.
- Those who are married: for God's purposes in their lives through the covenant of marriage.
- Those who are unable to have children: for God's miraculous provision in their lives.
- Those with children: for God's guidance to teach and care for those God has given them.

#### **PRAY FOR RISEN HOPE:**

- God to be exalted through Christ Jesus in every single thing we do as a church.
- Unity, love, and peace in every area and across the entire church family.
- God's provision to meet every need we have and equip every individual in this family.
- God's love, care, and grace to flow into Risen Hope Kids at every level, despite current limitations.
- Grace and wisdom for those guiding and participating in God Loves Kingsgate in this community.
- Grace and wisdom for Risen Hope Youth, both the leaders and the youth.
- God's love and compassion to be encountered by the people of Kirkland Heights.
- Those who serve the church in any capacity: God's wisdom and grace in their lives.
- Against the enemy's attack on the church: that he would be resisted and thwarted.
- The Holy Spirit's empowering every single person for the mission to which we've all been called.
- Every single member of the body to be used by God to build up the church according to his will.

#### **PRAY FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS:**

- God to powerfully work in our communities, convicting and opening hearts to the gospel.
- People to come to Christ through our instrumentality, both individually and as a church family.
- God to compel and embolden us to engage and love all our neighbors with the gospel.
- Willing hearts to sacrifice time, energy, and our very lives to love people like Jesus did.
- Strength and wisdom to avoid the mercy-killing trap of insular lives and over-filled schedules.
- God to force the enemy back in the areas we live so that the gospel can move forward in power.

#### **PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS:**

- Queensgate Baptist Church, Pastor Johnny and our brothers and sisters in Christ in that body.
- Care Net and the needs of pregnant women in crisis and their beautiful unborn children.
- Rescue:Freedom and their efforts to end human-trafficking across the entire world.
- Desiring God and their global pursuit of the glory of God through people's joy in God.
- Mary's Place and the real needs of homeless women, children, and families across Seattle.
- Paul and Tuula O'Rear as they work at Wycliffe Bible Translators to spread the gospel.
- Hope Community Church serving a community in Longford, Ireland (Creech family).
- Our Redeemer Lutheran, fellow Kingsgate church devoted to the gospel (Schultz family).
- The other churches in the Kingsgate community, their church bodies and their leaders.
- Reach Kirkland, Reach Everett, and Reach New Castle, their church body and leaders.
- Jason Chudnofsky with the Summit Initiative, a ministry for reaching soldiers.
- Soma Japan (Noguchi family) and the network of Soma churches.

#### **PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES WE KNOW:**

- Emily and her family (missionaries in very tough places).

- Narly Mendez and Abner Solano (Compassion in Action in Nicaragua).
- Daniel and Sarah Deurbrouck (missionaries in Athens).
- Loretta and Martin (brother and sister missionaries in South Africa).
- Glosson family (missionaries in Tokyo).
- Noguchi Family (church planters in Fuchu, Tokyo).
- David and Lee Hall (missionaries in Morocco).
- Howell family (missionaries in Indonesia).
- Johanna and Mackenzie Conner (translating the Bible into O'ya for remote Vietnam/Thailand).
- Newman family (expelled from China after 20+ years of ministry, looking for a new country).
- Oleg Shaykevitch (serves orphans, seniors, and soldiers in the Odessa region of Ukraine).
- Julio In Gilles (pastor in Haiti, started a school in Haiti to serve the underprivileged).

#### **PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY:**

- Our country, its people and its leaders, both present and future.
- Lament and sorrow over the unbelief and sinfulness of our culture.
- Mercy and forgiveness because of national, systemic, and widespread sin.
- The gospel would break out across our country, powerfully convicting and saving souls.
- Unity and peace in the face of political tension and hostility between political parties.
- God's grace to shine through the darkness and trauma of natural disasters and national tragedies.
- An end to domestic human trafficking and exploitation.
- An end to the brokenness in our culture when it comes to identity, sexuality, and gender.
- An end to the brokenness in our culture when it comes to race, diversity, and classes.
- An end to the brokenness in our culture when it comes to family and parenting.
- An end to all addictions, substance abuse, and destructive lifestyles.

#### **PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:**

- All nations would all come to a saving knowledge of Christ through the gospel of the cross.
- An end to all poverty, disease, and starvation throughout the entire world.
- An end to all human trafficking and exploitation throughout the entire world.
- Many missionaries would be sent by the Lord of the harvest to proclaim the gospel.
- Brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world, especially those who are persecuted for Christ.
- An end to all war, conflicts, and violent regimes across the globe.

#### **PRAY FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST:**

- The hope of glory: that Christ would come and set us free from the bondage to corruption.
- That our Lord Jesus Christ would return with both justice and mercy in his hands. Maranatha!
- Endurance to the very end for all our brothers and sisters in Christ. That none would be lost.
- Hopeful hearts that are constantly thoughtful of eternity in every single word and deed.
- For God our Father to soon bring the new heavens and new earth to his people.
- Hope and confident expectation in receiving glorified bodies free from sin, pain, and suffering.
- Final justice to speedily come against Satan and all evil powers at work in the world.