



CORNERSTONE
ANGLICAN
CHURCH

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

Each fall, we set aside several weeks prior to our Halloween Block Party to pray for our church and our community, as we seek to be a beacon of light on a dark night. We invite you to join us as we pray through these weeks, drawing from the prompts and Collects below for inspiration. May the Lord move mightily within our neighborhood and our church—especially in the hearts of those we will encounter on October 31st!

Week 1 - Praying against Spiritual Darkness: September 27-October 3

September 29 is traditionally known as "Michaelmas" after the archangel Michael, who does battle against Satan and his forces Revelation 12:7-12. It is a day that reminds us of what the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:12: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

- *Pray against the assaults and deceptions of the devil, both toward us and our neighbors.*
- *Pray that those who have been oppressed by spiritual darkness would experience true freedom in Jesus, especially those with addictions and those in despair.*

Collect for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29)

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for those in Bondage to Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon those who, through addiction, have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who minister to them, give patient understanding and persevering love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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Week 2 - Praying for a Heart of Mission: October 4-October 10

This week we remember the motivation behind our Halloween Block Party: to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. This event is an opportunity for us to follow Jesus by living out the Gospel both in word and deed.

- *Pray that God would increase our zeal for evangelism and mission at Cornerstone.*
- *Pray for those who will encounter the love of Jesus through us, that they would turn to him in faith and repentance.*

Collect For The Mission Of The Church

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect For The Spirit Of Evangelism

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week 3 - Praying for the Wellbeing and Safety of our Neighbors: October 11-17

This week we are praying for the wellbeing and safety of our neighborhood. We know there are neighbors who see our block party as a safe place for their families to come on Halloween, and we want to pray that Cornerstone Anglican Church would be a place of safety and refuge to them on October 31 and beyond.

- *Pray for safety in our neighborhood on Halloween, especially among the children and youth.*
- *Pray that our church will continue to be a place where people receive the healing and wellbeing only Jesus can bring through the gospel.*

Collect For The Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred



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which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week 4 - Praying for Peace for Those Experiencing Conflict or Distress: October 18-24

We live in an increasingly complex and divided world, and we know each person comes with his or her own complex stories as well. On October 23, we celebrate the Feast of St. James of Jerusalem, who helped guide the early church through conflict into unity in Acts 15. This week, let's pray for those who are suffering amidst conflict or distress in our neighborhood.

- *Pray for our neighbors who are living in homes marked by conflict, loneliness, or fear.*
- *Pray for anyone who is experiencing illness or anxiety, that they may receive peace.*
- *Pray that ours would be a church that cultivates peace on the Northwest Side.*

Collect for Times of Social Conflict or Distress

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the Feast of Saint James of Jerusalem (October 23)

Grant, O God, that, following the example of your apostle James the Just, kinsman of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Week 5 - Praying for Those who Serve our Community: October 25-31

In the final days leading up to the Halloween Block Party, we want to pray for the hands that will be loving and serving our neighborhood at this event. As we serve our community, we want to be faithful witnesses of the gospel, like St. Simon and Jude, whose feast falls this week. Ask God to give us grace to make known the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ through this event (and through all our efforts toward evangelism and mission in the future).



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- *Pray for all who will be volunteering at the Halloween Block Party, whether they are offering food and hospitality, running games, greeting guests, praying with neighbors, or sharing more about Jesus and our church.*
- *Pray that God would make our neighbors spiritually curious and draw them toward the light of Christ's presence through Cornerstone.*

Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Collect for the Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude (October 28)

Grant, O God, that as your apostles Simon and Jude were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**