



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

**INTERCESSION GUIDELINES
FOR USE
WHEN PRAYING WITH A GROUP**

- Joining together to pray is voluntarily entering into community with others. Each of you could be praying at home, but God has called you to one place. You will have the opportunity to pray in agreement with others which is a powerful tool in prayer.
- Personal preparation: Before you come, do your own personal repentance. Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and cover yourself and your loved ones with the spiritual application of the blood of Jesus (Exodus.12:13).
- Offer the courtesy of being punctual. If you have to arrive late, be a listener until you discern the direction the Holy Spirit is leading.
- Leadership of the meeting should be clearly established. It may be the rector/pastor, or the person who oversees the prayer ministry, or someone appointed for that given time. You want clear lines of authority in order to ward off any confusion.
- If people in the group do not know each other, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves.
- Begin with a time of worship, praise, thanksgiving...sung or spoken.
- Move on to pray for your leadership. You may want to begin with the Archbishop, Bishop, Pastor, then the vestry or leadership. Always pray for the clergy and their spouses together, speaking blessing over them as they are one flesh.
- Purpose to speak clearly and loudly enough so all can hear and agree with your prayer. Bowed heads often mean muffled voices.
- The group should seek the mind of Christ as it prays. Lay down your own opinions/agendas to hear from Him.
- Pray one subject at a time. No “hopping” from topic to topic. Moving on too quickly to a different prayer matter does not allow the Holy Spirit to lead. Focus on what a person is praying, not on what you might pray next.
- Avoid praying someone’s prayer over again verbatim. To express your agreement, you might say, “I confirm [or “echo”] that prayer” and then pray further into it.
- The group should pray a subject until the leader senses they have prayed all that God has given them. It may be helpful to close your individual prayer with the phrase, “in Jesus’ name,” so others will know you have finished.
- If you are confused or don’t understand what someone has said, please ask. Questions that lead to clarity will guard our unity.
- **IMPORTANT:** Keep confidentiality. Avoid any outside discussion about what is covered during the prayer time. This builds trust within the congregation.

- Assign a scribe to take notes, especially writing down significant scriptures. Appoint one person to give a report to the authority under whom you are praying. The leader can retain the notebook between meetings.
- Pray “cutting away” prayers before leaving. For example, “In Jesus’ name we cut from ourselves anything that would cling to us upon leaving this time of prayer. Lord, cover us in the precious blood of Jesus. We speak protection to ourselves and all that pertains to us and declare there will be no backlash from the enemy toward us or any of our loved ones. As we go, we ask you, Holy Spirit, to bring back to our remembrance anything that you may desire us to pray. We give you thanks and praise for all you have done. Amen.”
- If time permits, close with worship.