

week one:

## December 3-9

### FOCUS: CHRISTIAN HORIZONS FAITH ROOTS

Prayer may not be seen as “productive” in a frantic culture. Yet it is reported that Martin Luther said, “I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.” It is precisely when the cares of the world start taking priority that prayer is most needed. Prayer reminds us of our reliance upon God and reorients us to His priorities. This Christmas season, are you too busy *not* to pray? Our prayer focus this month is on the Resource and Leadership Centre in Kitchener.

“Jesus reveals his love slowly. Jesus takes time because love takes a certain kind of time.”

~ John Swinton

### PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for the people we support around the world this month as we approach the Christmas season. May they have opportunities to give and to receive not only physical gifts, but the love and care of family and friends.
- Give thanks for churches and communities that celebrated the International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pray especially for those who are using the resources at [www.christian-horizons.org/everybodybelongs](http://www.christian-horizons.org/everybodybelongs), that these would lead to a greater sense belonging with people of all abilities.

*Feedback or requests?*

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*Have you watched the Christian Horizons 2017 Introductory Video? Check it out today and share it with a friend from our "Videos" page:*

[www.christian-horizons.org/videos](http://www.christian-horizons.org/videos)

PRAYER GUIDE

December 2017

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”

~ Mary, Luke 1:46-50, ESV

  
Christian Horizons  
serving the person with exceptional needs

*week two:*

## DECEMBER 10-16

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
~ Isaiah 9:6, NLT

**THOUGHT:** What would it look like for the world to "rest on the shoulders" of the Prince of Peace? It is hard to imagine in a war-torn age. Yet, we are called to start living into this reality today. What can I do today that points to the reign of the *Wonderful Counselor* and the *Prince of Peace*?

### PRAYER POINTS

- There are growing opportunities and engagement with provincial affordable housing initiatives. Pray for the Operations department and all those who are exploring how these initiatives can positively impact the lives of people we support.
- Please keep our Facilities Administrator at the Resource and Leadership Centre in your prayers. After over a year without answers, she has received a diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease. Pray that her course of treatment will be effective and for relief of pain and a strengthening of her body.
- We pray, too, for the health of others who have received recent diagnoses and those who are going through flus and colds this season.

*week three:*

## DECEMBER 17-23

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."  
~ John 1:14

**THOUGHT:** At the heart of the Christmas story is the Word-become-flesh; the "incarnation" or "enfleshment" of God. It is through this act that Christ becomes Emmanuel, God with us. Similarly, we demonstrate Christ as we put into action love, care, and respect for those around us.

### PRAYER POINTS

- The Finance team is piloting a "Purchase Card" program. We pray that they learn what they need to from this initiative in order to support programs well.
- We also pray for wisdom and strength for the Finance team as they guide us through budget planning.
- Services and supports are constantly changing. We pray for the people and teams who are working through the impact of employment Bill 148. We also pray for the transformation of developmental services over the coming years. We ask for wisdom and guidance as we explore new paths together.
- As Christian Horizons develops a new Intranet for employees, we pray for wisdom and direction to meet technical needs that allow us to further our Vision.

*week four:*

## DECEMBER 24-30

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."  
~ Luke 2:6, 7, NIV

**THOUGHT:** Woven through the Christmas account are simple, tangible, and relatable pictures of Christ's humanity. To be born as a baby is to come in weakness, dependent upon others. In this, we see that God's glory is not only demonstrated in power but in vulnerability and interdependence.

### PRAYER POINTS

- We give thanks for the Direct Support Professionals working over the holidays. We pray that this is a blessed and rewarding time for them and the people they are supporting.
- Over the next year we will continue to promote the EveryBody Belongs campaign and resources. In equipping churches to take a Sunday to celebrate the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities, we pray that they would become communities where *everybody belongs*. Pray for effective communication and that churches would be receptive to this opportunity.
- We give thanks for 2017, and all that God has done through our work. We pray for continued wisdom and responsiveness to His direction in 2018.