

I. Introduction:

- A.** Jesus Christ is the high priest and chief intercessor over His church. Sometimes people think we do “house of prayer” because of a few references to it in the Bible (Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46). Although those references are incredibly significant, even the idea of God’s house being a house of prayer is merely an extension of a truth of even greater significance—the truth that God Himself has always been, and will always be, a praying God. In fact, most specifically, Jesus Christ—the second Person of the triune God—serves eternally as High Priest (Hebrews 3:1, 4:14, 6:20) over the people of God, and forever engages in the ministry of intercession (Luke 22:31-32; Romans 8:27, 34; Hebrews 7:25).
- B.** The fact that Jesus prays is why the church prays. In the larger and more ultimate sense, we are coming into agreement not only with what the Bible says about prayer, but into agreement with the ministry Jesus is currently doing right now in Heaven. Prayer is real-time partnership with Jesus. Many believers today have never been taught about Jesus the Intercessor. It’s a subject that has traditionally been more contemplated by the mystic-oriented segments of the church, but the Holy Spirit is bringing the revelation mainstream. Jesus’ global church will be incredibly powerful and anointed in prayer as hearts and minds are gripped by this understanding. This concept of a praying church is often referred to as our priestly role, or the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

II. Jesus the Intercessor:

Romans 8:27 | Now He (*Jesus*) who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He (*Jesus*) makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- What does this tell us? Jesus is praying the will of God for the saints, which means you and me.

Romans 8:34 | Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- What does this tell us? When Jesus ascended to Heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, He continued in the ministry of intercessory prayer. Many Christians have sort of assumed Jesus just sits there or something. The truth is, however, that being “at the right hand of God” speaks of authority, not inactivity. Jesus exercises this authority through prayer.

Hebrews 7:25 | Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- What does this tell us? Look at the word “always” in this verse. Think about the implications of Jesus always praying for you and His church. The idea of continual prayer makes more sense in light of the always praying Christ. Think about how He is praying for everyone, even the people we may not care for. As we understand this, we too become intercessors who pray for everyone.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1)

Luke 22:31-32: Jesus tells Peter that He’s prayed for him. When Jesus prays for us, His prayers get answered.

III. What happens when we understand Jesus the Intercessor more clearly:

2 Corinthians 3:18 | But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- What does this tell us? Notice the words “beholding” and “being transformed” in this verse. As we behold the glory of Christ, we are transformed to become more like Him. Another way to think of this: as Jesus reveals Himself to us more, we are changed more into what He’s like. If we are being transformed into the likeness of Christ, and He is always interceding, then we too will be interceding. In short, we become what we behold. To see Christ is to see a Man who is always praying, always talking to His Father.

“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.” – Robert Murray M’Cheyne

IV. Concluding thoughts:

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for February 10, 2023.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** We pray from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Come on out! Visit gphop.org/school for more information.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO).
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County, Washington.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), TikTok, Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*