



2023 THEME

Re-imagining Ministry 3.0: Facing the Future with Faith Forward
(Philippians 3:12-14)

OUR VISION

to transform lives with the message of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to INSPIRE the sinner, IGNITE the saint
& IMPACT society with the message of Jesus Christ

OUR CORE VALUES

Christ-likeness, community, cordiality, creativity, commitment, character,
Christian Education

OUR CREDO

Whether a guest, member, or friend, as a result of your encounter with
the St. John Church you will be better!

SJC 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING 2023

St. John Church 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting (SJC21DPF) begins Wednesday, March 15 and ends Friday, April 7 (Good Friday). Our theme is “Facing the Future with Faith Forward”! (Philippians 3:12-14) SJC21DPF takes place during the Lenten Season and excludes Sunday. Lent is a period of 40 days (Ash Wednesday – Good Friday) during which Christians remember and prepare for commemorating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will join in on a church-wide daily prayer call at 6:00 AM (plus Sundays during the fast, Holy Saturday and Resurrection Sunday.) Our 21 daily devotions will come from the book, *Forward Moving Faith* by Cleddie Keith and Aaron Schilling which is available in the SJC Growing in the Spirit Bookstores. Participants are to set aside personal quiet time, choose their own fast and keep a journal to record and commemorate their prayer and fasting journey.

We have been encouraged by Pastor Davis to Look at our Past/Look at our Present/Look at the PRIZE (Philippians 3:12-14). From the authors of *The Word of Today*, “We all need a little faith, hope, and courage to face the day. And some days, we need as much as we can”. Let us enter this fast expecting an increase in all these areas.

Important Dates:

- ❑ March 15- April 7 – **SJC 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting (21 DPF)**
- ❑ March 15 – April 9 – **6:00 AM Daily Prayer Call**
- ❑ Sat. April 1 – **Eggstravaganza**, 12:00 – 2:00PM Southlake Campus
- ❑ Sun. April 2 – **Palm Sunday**
- ❑ Sun. April 2 – **Children’s Easter Program**
- ❑ April 3-5 – **Holy Week Revival**, 7:00 PM Grand Prairie Campus
- ❑ Fri. April 7 – **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting End**
- ❑ Fri. April 7 – **Good Friday Service**, 12 Noon Grand Prairie Campus
- ❑ Sun. April 9 – **Resurrection Services**, 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM Grand Prairie Campus and 10:00 AM Southlake Campus

There are five components of SJC 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting:

- Personal Quiet Time
- Church-wide Prayer Call
- Personal Fast
- 21-Day Devotional from the book *Forward Moving Faith* by Cleddie Keith and Aaron Schilling
- Personal Journal

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(1) Personal Quiet Time:

Daily personal devotion or quiet time is simply time set apart to spend with God. During this season, plan to set aside more time to spend with God every day and be consistent. Quiet time is an important part of a Christian's everyday life. This time should allow one to draw closer to God without distractions. It consists of practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, listening, journaling, scripture reading and meditating on God's Word. We must desire to know God better and be willing to obey the Lord God that we seek to know. It is imperative that every believer intensifies his or her commitment to living in accordance and obedience to the Word of God to experience the glory of the Lord like never before!

(2) Church-wide 6:00 AM Prayer Call:

Join the SJC Family for a daily 6:00 AM prayer call that begins Wednesday, March 15 (including Saturday and Sunday) and ends Friday, April 7 (Good Friday). Each day there is a prayer focus and scripture. Each morning Pastor Davis and/or SJC representative will lead in devotion and prayer. **PRAYER LINE: 530-881-1212 / CODE: 291-359-153**

(3) Personal Fast:

Your personal fast should be so impactful that in your sacrifice you are constantly reminded of the power and presence of God in your life.

Choose your personal fast:

- abstaining from certain foods (example: Daniel Fast, eliminating meats, dairy, sugars, junk foods, fried foods or etc.)
- minimizing the use of technology/television/social media
- eliminating non-essential spending

Divine cleansing and renewal of our bodies are some of the benefits of a personal fast. Pray for God's wisdom to make appropriate choices during this time of fasting.

It is recommended that you consult with your physician before beginning a food fast. Remember to drink plenty of water and get sufficient rest.

(4) 21-Day Devotional

We will start each day with The Word, prayer, and an intentional focus on our theme: **Facing the Future with Faith Forward!** Our 21 daily devotions will come from the book, *Forward Moving Faith* by Cleddie Keith and Aaron Schilling which is available in the SJC Growing in the Spirit Bookstores

"Without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly and diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

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It is our desire during these 21 days and beyond to be pleasing to God. The prayer of faith is important. When we come, we must believe. Jesus says we can pray for anything and if you believe that you will receive it, it will be yours.

We are living in times of uncertainty. As we pray, we are trusting the Lord with our world, our church, our community and our families. We will need increased faith, hope, and courage.

Remember God's joy is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10), especially when times get tough. The enemy will use every possible device to get us to focus on our problems. We will give him less attention and give more attention to Jesus, our Savior. We will not be led astray from our devotions to Him. We are advancing in Him. We are "Facing the Future with Faith Forward".

(5) 21-Day Journal – journal your 21 days of fasting and prayer journey



SJC 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING 2023

DEVOTIONALS AT-A-GLANCE

DAY	FOCUS	SCRIPTURE	ASK	ACT	PAGES
1 WED MAR 15	RETURN WITH FASTING	Joel 2:12-13 Daniel 9:3	Is there anything in my life that I need to let go of?	Write out fasting plan and complete on-line commitment form. Get rid of one thing that could compromise your commitment to God today.	Pages 10-11
2 THU MAR 16	SOUL CLEANSING	Ephesians 5:14-17	Am I holding on to any unforgiveness?	Look in the mirror & declare you are forgiven. Write this phrase on a piece of paper, "Jesus, help me to be able to forgive...".	Pages 12-13
3 FRI MAR 17	RENEW YOUR MIND	Romans 12:2	What areas of my mind need to be renewed?	Go for a walk. With each step, talk to Jesus about your life, your passions, your goals, and your worries. Journal what is revealed.	Pages 14-15
4 SAT MAR 18	MAKING ROOM	Matthew 4:4 Mark 7:20 Psalm 119:11	Am I lacking the benefits I am promised when I make room for God?	Find a quiet "room" to meditate on the Word of God and his goodness and allow him to show you His will for your life.	Pages 18-19
SUN MAR 19	LOOKING FOR HOPE Romans: 15:13				See Below
5 MON MAR 20	NEW DESIRE FOR GOD	Matthew 5:6 Psalm 63:1	What new desire is God birthing in me as I fast?	Take time to delight yourself in the Lord. Ask God to make He desires your desire too. Journal what is revealed.	Pages 20-21
6 TUE MAR 21	BREAKING FREE	1 Corinthians 15:33	Are there any beliefs or mentalities I have that don't agree with the Word of God?	Let It Go. What has been holding you back from fully serving God? Journal it. Pray through it. Give it to Jesus.	Pages 22-23
7 WED MAR 22	GOALS	Luke 2:36- 38	What are my specific goals on this fast?	Ask for wisdom as you reevaluate Day 1. Delete or add any additional goals revealed.	Pages 26-27

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DAY	FOCUS	SCRIPTURE	ASK	ACT	PAGES
8 THU MAR 23	GOD'S GREAT LIGHT	Isaiah 58:6-8	In what areas of my life is God shining His light today?	Thank God for His light shining through you. Pray for the opportunity to share His light with someone.	Pages 28-29
9 FRI MAR 24	HEALTH SPRINGS FORTH	Isaiah 33:24 Jeremiah 33:6 Psalm 103:3	Are there any areas in my life that I have become comfortable living in bondage?	Spend time today thanking God in advance for your healing. Pray and ask God to reveal any specific ways that you can improve your health.	Pages 30-31
10 SAT MAR 25	OPEN HEAVEN	Isaiah 64:1 Matthew 3:16	In what areas do I need God to open the heavens over my life?	Take a walk and meditate on the benefits and graciousness of God to live under an open heaven.	Pages 34-35
SUN MAR 26	COURAGE Joshua 1:9				See Below
11 MON MAR 27	GOD'S LEADING	Matthew 3:17, 4:1 Psalm 37:23	How is God making me more sensitive to His voice?	Make sure you journal your time with God and His steps to lead you into your purpose.	Pages 36-37
12 TUE MAR 28	MOVE OF FAITH	Colossians 2:6-7, Matthew 9:29	In what areas has God been building my faith, as I've been fasting?	Pray about what activities can increase your faith. Pray about who can you encourage in their faith.	Pages 38-39
13 WED MAR 29	PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS	Isaiah 43:26	Are there areas of my life that I've been living with less than what God says I can have?	Spend time in the Word identifying scripture that supports and strengthens your prayer	Pages 42-43
14 THU MAR 30	HOLINESS	Hebrews 12:5-6, 11	Have I allowed anything to hinder my walk with God?	Play your favorite worship song. While it is playing, ask God to open and expand any areas in your life that may be closed off to Him	Pages 44-45

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DAY	FOCUS	SCRIPTURE	ASK	ACT	PAGES
15 FRI MAR 31	FEARLESS	2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:15	In what areas has fear kept me from moving forward?	Examine scripture that will help you identify, label, and process the emotions that causes your fear.	Pages 46-47
16 SAT APR 1	TRUST	Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 6:33	Have I placed my trust in anything except God?	Find three scriptures dealing with trust. Memorize one of the scriptures as a victory verse.	Pages 50-51
SUN APR 2	PALM SUNDAY: A DAY OF HOPE John 12:12-19				See Below
17 MON APR 3	NO SORROW	Proverbs 10:22	In what ways can I immerse myself in human need or the cause of reaching the lost?	List five ways in which God has blessed you. List three ways in which you will be a blessing to others.	Pages 52-53
18 TUE APR 4	HISTORICAL CHANGE	Ezra 8:21-23	Am I a person who stands in the gap?	Share with someone the results of a previous fast and your expectations from this fast.	Pages 54-55
19 WED APR 5	REVELATION	Romans 14:17	What divine revelation has God given me recently?	Write a prayer of thanks for how God's how revealed Himself during this fast.	Pages 58-59
20 THU APR 6	THE PROMISES OF GOD	John 2:17	Are there any promises God has given me that I have not moved into?	List three promises of God and how they have worked in your life.	Pages 60-61
21 FRI APR 7	THE GREAT REWARD	Hebrews 11:6	What rewards have I already seen and what rewards am I hoping to see, as a result of this time of prayer and fasting?	Thank God for the great reward of this prayer and fasting period. Commit to making prayer and fasting one of your spiritual disciplines.	Pages 62-63
SAT APR 8	HOLY SATURDAY - TARRYING TOGETHER Mark 15:47-16:3				See Below
SUN APR 9	RESURRECTION SUNDAY: THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION 1 Corinthians 15:12-23; 55-58				See Below

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Devotions for Sundays, Holy Saturday & Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, Mar 19 – HOPE: Looking for Hope

Romans: 15:13

We find hope in God's presence. When life feels out of control, turn to Him in prayer. "He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone (Psalm 62:6–7 NLT)."

We find hope in God's promise—His living Word. "My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word (Psalm 119:81 ESV)."

We find hope in God's process, which almost never matches our own human understanding. Even in our pain, God is at work sewing things together for good. This may not translate to our comfort; it's meant to conform us to be more like Christ (Romans 8:28). God uses our struggles to produce endurance, which produces character, and character produces hope (Romans 5:3–5).

We find hope in God's purpose for our lives. Every single one of us has been created with a divine plan in mind. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope' (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)." And finally, we find hope in the promise of things yet to come. In John 14:1–2 (NLT), Christ says, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"

Hope is not something we do, it's something we possess; gifted to us by God's unending grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. Hope is the anchor for our soul (Hebrews 6:19) and without it, we're incomplete (Proverbs 13:12).

Sunday, Mar 26 – COURAGE

Joshua: 1:9

Joshua 1:9 says "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." God commanded Joshua to be strong physically, but he also needed the strength of character required to fulfill the role that God had ordained for him. Always providing for His people, the Lord also gave him examples of what being courageous looked like. He said it was not being afraid or discouraged, and knowing that He would be with Joshua wherever He went.

Just as Joshua was able to take heart those words in scripture, we can do the same today in every aspect of our lives as we move forward in faith. Sonja MacDonald, an award-winning author, details the different types of courage. Physically, we can face our fears despite the idea of being hurt. Emotionally, we can express ourselves clearly and effectively without feelings of guilt.

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Socially, we can do and say the hard things in love even if it is risky. Most important, we can move forward in faith with courage because the Lord has promised to be with us wherever we go. Amen.

Sunday, Apr 2 – PALM SUNDAY: A DAY OF HOPE

John 12:12-19

Palm Sunday was the “beginning of the end” of Jesus’ work on earth. It is the week before his death and resurrection. Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, representing the day Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph riding on the back of a donkey while the crowds of people gathered, waving palm branches and shouting “Hosanna.” This word means, “Lord, save us!”.

The crowd was hoping for Jesus to deliver them from the rule of the Romans and set up his own Kingdom on earth. However, Jesus brought a much greater hope. It is the hope of being forgiven and knowing God personally. Scripture refers to Jesus’ return as our “blessed hope”, Titus 2:11 – 14. It is the assurance of knowing Him within our own spirits when we bow before Him, admitting our sin and receiving Him into our hearts. It is the fire of His Holy Spirit within us that creates love, compassion, and the desire to share this hope with others.

When we celebrate Palm Sunday, we are looking ahead with hope. Resurrection Day is coming!

Saturday, April 8 – HOLY SATURDAY – TARRYING TOGETHER

Mark 15:47-16:3

There is a tradition in African American communities called tarrying. It is when friends, family, and church family gather around the body of someone who is sick and sometimes near death—and the community begins to sing and sometimes pray with the hopes that the one who is infirmed might be restored or received with open arms by a loving and redeeming God. Can you imagine Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome watching from afar as Jesus died on the cross and not really knowing what to do, not knowing if they could cry out, not knowing what song to sing to bring him comfort at his most painful hour?

Tarrying is not simply about bringing comfort to the one who is sick or dying; it is a willingness to enter into the pain of the community. These women dealt with their grief together. They probably wiped each other’s tears and held each other’s hands. They knew they could not change the fact that their Lord had died but, they could commit to not suffering alone. You see, many of us are suffering in silence because we are too afraid to be vulnerable, too afraid to let our images slip.

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But maybe in the sharing of our pain, we might find others who are grieving too, others who are singing our songs, and praying our prayers. And maybe as we find our collective voice of pain, we can discover our collective hope of resurrection. Amen (Devotion by Rev. Dr. Tori C. Butler)

Sunday, April 9 – RESURRECTION SUNDAY: THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:12-23; 55-58

On Resurrection Sunday, we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This Resurrection Sunday, the Body of Christ will be honoring and celebrating the greatest gift ever given—the gift of eternal life with God through the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus Christ. As Christ was resurrected, so are we raised with Him. Thank you, Father, for the resurrection and the new life you give us. Because Christ lives, we have assured faith, confident joy, and guaranteed hope.

Easter is a season of great gladness for those who know Christ. But for those who are without “the light of the knowledge of God’s glory” (2 Corinthians 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over.

Jesus left us with the great hope and certainty that He is going to return to bring a new Heaven and a new earth where, we are told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who have believed and followed Him. There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have neglected or rejected Him.

As Christians, our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again. During this season of the year our prayer, is that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because “He is risen!” That is the Good News.
