

Prayer Petition #1: A Prayer of Love for the Houston Metropolitan Area

Scripture Reading:

Psalms 48; Ps 122; Psalms 133; II Chronicles 7:14

Reflections of the Heart:

A united walk of love of the righteous that is earnest, heartfelt and in continued prayer makes tremendous power available – dynamic in its working. Where there is an endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, there is one body, and one Spirit, even as the righteous are called in one hope of their calling, with one accord.

Scriptural Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You with humble adoration and praise. How great are You, Lord, how deserving of praise, in Your city, which sits on Your holy mountain! (Psalms 48:1) Our hearts are confident in You, O God; our hearts are confident. No wonder we can sing Your praises! (Psalms 57:7) We praise You, Abba Father, for You did not ignore our prayers or withdraw Your unfailing love from us. (Psalms 66:20) All of us believers in the city of Houston join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to You, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:6) We thank You, Father, for showing us how to love. We praise You for blessing us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. (Ephesians 1:3) We praise You, Lord! We give thanks to You, for You are good! Your faithful love endures forever. (Psalms 106:1)

Heavenly Father, we are looking forward with great anticipation the “Houston Love Walk” to cover our city in prayer. We claim that Houston will become the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14) Your people love every stone in her walls and cherish even the dust in her streets. (Psalms 102:14) As we walk around the city, we proclaim that those of us who live in the light will be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. (I Thessalonians 5:8) We proclaim that our task will be to ferret out the wicked and free the city of Houston from their grip. (Psalms 101:8) We will walk through the streets of Houston and extend our hands toward all who weep and sigh because of the detestable sins being committed in our city. (Ezekiel 9:4) Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from You, Father and from Jesus Christ – Your Son – will continue to be with us who live in truth and love. (II John 1:3) As we encircle the city of Houston with love, we will proclaim, “Wake up, wake up, O Houston! Clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothes, O great city, for the unclean and godless people will enter your gates no longer. Rise from the dust, O Houston. Sit in a place of honor. (Isaiah 52:1-2a) Of Houston, we claim that it will be said, “Everyone enjoys the rights of citizenship here.” And You, Most High, will personally bless this city. (Psalms 87:5) O Lord, we proclaim that You will make our city great; yes, You will make us great. You will extend our borders, and we give You the glory! (Isaiah 26:15) Father, we decree that You will bless this city and make it prosperous; You will satisfy its poor with food. You will clothe its priests with godliness; its faithful servants will sing for joy. (Psalms 132:15-16) The streets of Houston will be filled with boys and girls at play. (Zechariah 8:5) Houston will bring You joy, glory and honor before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see all the good You do for Your people, and they will tremble with awe at the peace and prosperity You provide for us in Houston. (Jeremiah 33:9)

Many are the things I love about Houston:

Heavenly Father, as Your people go out in love where You send us to fight our enemies, and as we pray to You by turning toward this city, then hear our prayers from heaven and uphold our cause. (II Chronicles 6:34-35) We lift up to You the leaders of the city of Houston: Mayor Bill White, Controller Annise Parker, and Council Members Peter Brown, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, Ronald Green, Jolanda Jones, Toni Lawrence, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, M. J. Kahn, Pam Holm, Edward Gonzalez and James G. Rodriguez. Send to them messengers who will speak forth Your Word so they will govern with Your wisdom and faithfulness. Father God, we come against the enemies of peace within Houston. Confuse them, Lord, and frustrate their plans, for we see violence and conflict in the city. Its streets are patrolled day and night against invaders, but the real danger is wickedness within the city. (Psalms 55:9-10) Lord of Heaven’s Armies, hover over Houston and protect it like a bird protecting its nest. Defend and save the city; pass over it and rescue it. (Isaiah 32:5) For Your own honor and for the sake of Your people, we pray, Father God, that You will defend the City of Houston and protect it. (II Kings 19:34) Father, we pray for peace in Houston. May all who love You in this city prosper. (Psalms 122:6)

Lord God, because we have found favor with You, please travel with us as we surround the city of Houston with love. Yes, this is a stubborn and rebellious people, but please forgive the iniquity and sins of Houstonians who come before You in true repentance. Claim us as Your own special possession. (Exodus 34:9) Hear the humble and earnest requests from Your people when we pray toward the city. Yes, hear us from heaven where You live, and when You hear, forgive. As we repent of the things You hate, forgive those who are guilty of idolatry, violence, hatred, bigotry, racism, covetousness, wickedness, dishonesty, disobedience, lust of the sinful nature, lust of the eyes and the pride of what they have or do. Father, forgive me for *(list the sins, say them out loud to the Lord)*. Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say out loud, "I forgive name of person(s).")*

Holy Spirit, remind us not to yield to temptation, and that Jesus Christ has delivered us from the evil one.

Let all that we are praise You, Lord. O Lord, our God, how great You are! You are robed with honor and majesty. (Psalms 104:1) Almighty God, we call out to the people, "Stand up and praise the Lord your God, for He lives from everlasting to everlasting!" May Your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessings and praise! (Nehemiah 9:5) For You are El-Shaddai – God Almighty! (Genesis 35:11a) In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen!

Scripture References for the Written Text:

Today I will trust God to:
