

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



September 21, 2025

I. A Call to Worship

“Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—He is the King of glory.” Psalm 24:9–10 (NIV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

The Oaks Priority #2

We are a grace-based church. We emphasize
God’s amazing grace in our relationship with Him
and in our relationships with one another.

Out of the fullness of His grace He has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another.

John 1:16 (GNT)

III. Worshipping God Through Our Offerings

Give, and it will be given to you: A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive.” Luke 6:38 (NET)

IV. Lens & Actions for Christians in Times of Evil and Suffering
Matthew 24:6-14 & I Peter 4:7-13
Pastor Gary Barber

Introduction: A response to recent tragedies in our country and our world.

⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:6-14 (NIV)

And you will be hated by all people because of My name. And yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. Luke 21:17-19 (NASB)

How Firm A Foundation

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU – Hebrews 13:5

YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE – Hebrews 10:36

❖ Background of I Peter

⁷ The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. ⁸ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. I Peter 4:7-13 (NASB)

For God's children, as sure as the day follows the night, God's glory always follows suffering.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14, 15 (ESV)

Gospel = God's Only Son Provides Eternal Life

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (ESV)

❖ Invitation & Prayer

Community Group Questions:

Read Matthew 24:6–14 together.

1. How do you usually react when you hear about tragedies, wars, or disasters? Fear, sadness, anger, numbness?

2. Jesus says, "*see to it that you are not alarmed.*" What does it mean to trust Him instead of being consumed by fear?

3. Verse 12 says, "*the love of most will grow cold.*" Where do you see this happening today—in culture, in the church, or in yourself?

Read 1 Peter 4:7–11 together.

4. Peter calls us to sound judgement, prayer, love, hospitality, and service. Which one comes most naturally for you? Which one do you need God's help to grow in? Which one do you feel challenged to press into more this season?

5. Pastor Gary reminded us that the world's response in tough times is often anger and division, but Christ's family is called to deeper love and unity. How can our group reflect that in the weeks ahead? Peter says to use our gifts to serve one another. How has God gifted you, and how can you use those gifts to glorify Him right now?

Read 1 Peter 4:12–13 together.

6. How can we rejoice even in hard times because of Jesus?

Read Mark 1:14–15 together.

7. Jesus proclaimed: *"The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel."* Pastor Gary explained repentance means to change our thinking and direction. Where is God asking you to repent or return to Him?

8. **End in prayer** for one another and for your *Frances*.



Thank you for your generous giving to the ministry of The Oaks. Your prayers and giving are changing lives.

YTD Budget Need: \$202,950

YTD Tithes & Offering: \$166,450



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Text us to let us know that you are here today or with any prayer request that you have: 661-241-3408.