


*"On your walls,
O Jerusalem I have
set watchmen
all the day and
all the night."*

Isaiah 62:6



WATCHMEN ON THE WALL



Mind The Gap

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

If you've ever been to London and ridden on the London Underground railway you have heard the term "Mind the gap." They want to constantly remind you that there is a dangerous distance – a gap – between where you are and where you want to be. This week I was reminded afresh that there is a terrible gap that our sin, our rebellious choice to seek our own way rather than submitting to the lordship of God, has put between us and our holy and perfect God. It is a gap that results in death, eternal separation from God and the abundant life He has planned for us.

Most religions want us to "mind the gap" based on our own goodness, our own works of righteousness to work our way across the gap to God. Just be kind, help some people, give some money, perform the rituals of religion. But the Bible tells us that we can never be good enough to bridge that gap. As a matter of fact, our very best is like dirty rags in God's perfect presence. What a sad story! Without help an eternity outside of joy, peace, hope and light awaits our best efforts.

But hope pierces the night in Bethlehem. This is what the Christmas story is about. It is the most beautiful story in the universe – a story about the greatest love shown in the most unselfish way for the most unworthy recipients. You see, when we could not cross the gap in our own righteousness Jesus came to cross that gap from Heaven to earth. Jesus came to us!

I was drawn to this truth in Psalm 111:9a: *"He has sent redemption to His people."* The Old Testament proclaims that the bridging of this terrible gap does not initiate from people but from God. Redemption – the bridging of the sin gap by the payment for our sins – does not initiate from earth towards Heaven but rather was initiated before time by God to send a Savior to bridge the gap. Jesus puts it this way in Luke 19:10: *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."*

The story we celebrate each December is the story of God's proactive love for us demonstrated in Jesus leaving His perfect home in Heaven, appearing first in a dirty manger, living a perfect life, dying to bridge the gap created by sin, and then rising to bridge the way to eternal life.

Watchmen Prayer Warriors, this Christmas month let's praise our Savior Jesus Christ for coming to save us for our sins. Let's seek Him in prayer asking Him to compel our actions, our thoughts, our ministries, our very lives to share with a lost world that there is hope in Jesus to bridge the gap to a personal relationship with the Savior who came to save us.



Greg Martin
Pastor of Congregational Care

Special Prayers for All in These Times

2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” As believers, we have the authority Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and pray for healing for those who have the Coronavirus.

- Praise God for His sovereignty. He is and always will be in control of all things. Pray that we will trust Him to help us navigate this season of uncertainty. (Psalm 103:19)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the world, using these global circumstances to advance His Good News to all nations. (Mark 16:15)
- Pray for the protection of doctors, nurses, crisis response teams, emergency first responders, researchers and other medical professionals who risk their lives to protect ours.
- Pray for wisdom for governmental leaders to have the wisdom to direct us in the best course of action for our country. (Romans 13:1–4).
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities. (Philippians 4:6-7)
- Pray for racial understanding, peace, and harmony. Pray every person as an image-bearer of God, would experience justice and protection. (Galatians 3:28)

See web links below for the most up-to-date information about our campus schedules.

- View Worship Gatherings online (mobberly.org/online)
- Prayer concerns (mobberly.org/pray)
- Give to the Lord through Mobberly (mobberly.org/give)
- Stay connected with our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Subscribe to our [email news](#) list.

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

• Jesus is God made flesh for our sakes

- **Colossians 2:9-10 (CSB):** *"⁹For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority."*
- **1 Timothy 3:16 (CSB):** *"¹⁶And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."*
- **Hebrews 2:14-15 (CSB):** *"¹⁴Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death."*

Praise the Lord:

- For an amazing finish to the Love the Nations Initiative.

- For a group of Choir and Orchestra members who went to sing and play at a local Veteran's event. Praise the Lord for church members and staff who are willing to go on their own time and use their talents to bless others.
- For the KidsLIFE Choir who helped lead in worship on Nov. 9 for Children's Baptism Day! And special thanks go to the parents who got up extra early to bring their children to sing. The kids brought such joy as they sang and did their motions for the Lord!
- For 58 people participating in our November Prayer/Visitation event.
- For all of those who went on mission, gave so others could go, prayed for teams while they were gone.
- For Marshall campus members and attenders catching the vision for Love the Nations, praying for mission partners, and going on mission trips.
- For the addition of a Marshall Youth Ministry Apprentice, Macy Langston.
- For the staff at the Marshall campus who serve as faithful stewards and lead servants.
- For the ability to partner with local Marshall community organizations such as Marshall Pregnancy Resource Center, 4Families/4Kids, and CASA.
- For His kindness in providing Brooke Kelley and Christina Walbridge who faithfully completed apprenticeships in our Children's Ministry. Praise God for providing two new apprentices starting in January, Addie Ratledge and Chelsea Harvey.
- For all the kids and parents who were baptized on Children's Baptism Day! Pray they will make every effort to grow in their friendship with Jesus.
- For Connect Groups that have been meeting needs: Operation Christmas Child box packing parties, helping local missions, reaching out to the House of Disciples, and Graciously Broken, and so much more. Our people and their Connect Groups love to serve!
- For teachers and leaders serving our Senior Adult and Special Ministries Connect Group. Their faithful commitment and partnership in ministry impact so many lives.
- For our women's Bible study leadership. Pray that they would rest well during the Christmas holiday season after a full semester of service. Ask God to help them reflect on all that He did in 2025 and give them renewed excitement to watch Him work in 2026 through our time in the Word with women.
- For a really sweet year of ministry to women in 2025. Thank God for the dozens of new women who have joined the church, engaged in the life of our labors and fun, and stepped into new leadership roles to serve others with the good gifts He has given to them.
- For new partnerships that are bringing help and healing to the community.
- For new flourishing Thrive! support groups.
- For showing up in the small moments and showing His always-on-time provision and glory.
- For his protection of His people and calling us back to Himself.
- For the children finding forever families through Heart Gallery Etx.
- For new Thrive! Champions coming forward to start new support opportunities.
- For Night of Hope - nearly 250 in attendance, a volunteer event coordinator, and a small army of volunteers who served to raise over \$35K for counseling ministry to be used over the next year.
- For leading us expediently to a new male counselor starting at Hope Road Counseling (HRC) Dec. 2, Blair Warren.
- For countless stories of life change as people encounter his grace and hope through Christ-centered counseling at HRC.
- For increasing our capacity at HRC to serve our community through space, counselor's schedules, and more people reaching out for counseling.
- For His blessings, wisdom, and provision for Oasis in the Pines:

- The Oasis House is complete inside and out and provides a wonderful space for our guests to rest, reflect, gather, dine and converse.
- Ongoing partnerships are developing with Guidestone Financial Resources, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Baptist General Convention of Texas, North American Mission Board, Pastor's Hope Network, Servant Care and Alongside Ministries.
- Participants in Oasis in the Pines have been blessed: four couples and one individual in September-November. Praise -the Lord for His work in each of these Christian leaders. We have heard encouraging feedback from each of them.
- Volunteers continue to serve: 100+ individuals have volunteered to help with meal preparation, flowers, facility care, providing special experiences and many other helpful ways. We are so thankful for our volunteers.
- Gregg and Analisa represented Oasis in the Pines to pastors and other leaders who attended the annual Texas Baptist Convention in Abilene, Texas on Nov 16-18:
- For our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continuing its vital ministry. **Six** people put their hope in Jesus through this team's ministry since the last Watchmen Alert! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: **Denise, Corteyzsha, Brittany, Shannon, Raven, and Johnasia.**

Repent: Our sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disrupt our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance or sins of relationships. Ask God for the grace to repent and to restore your fellowship. Then thank God that Christ has already paid for your sins. Rest in His unfailing love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise and purified through repentance, then we are ready to "Ask". God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

Ask God:

- To bless and lead Pastor Andrew as he prepares to preach the book of Romans in 2026.
- To guide our WIN (staff planning) team for Deeper through Devotion. Ask God for wisdom for them as they lead the charge for our 2026 church-wide focus.
- To continue to bless all the preparations for Sounds of the Season. Please pray that lost people will be invited to come! Pray that as they hear the story of Jesus presented that they will realize the sin gap that separates them from God and accept Jesus as their Savior!
- To protect the safety and health of all the cast, crew, choir, orchestra and tech team members throughout Sounds of the Season!
- To bless our Christmas Eve services, asking that they will be Spirit-led and family-oriented as we proclaim Jesus as The Light of the World!
- For spiritual decisions to be made at each of the Sounds of the Season Performances.
- To bless 2026 mission trips as He leads in planning details for upcoming trips.
- To help Mobberly to finish strong with the Love the Nations 2025 offering.

- To lead our Marshall campus deeper through devotion in 2026 and to see spiritual fruit from spiritual roots.
- To give us direction and leaders for young adult, men's and women's ministry in Marshall.
- To provide both male and female adult leaders for Marshall student ministry.
- To bring more musicians to the Marshall campus: electric guitar, drums, bass guitar.
- To grow the Marshall campus members and attenders into saints equipped for ministry and that they would find fulfillment in fulfilling their ministry roles and that no role would be left unfilled.
- For four new preschool teachers and four new preschool helpers for Sundays in Marshall.
- To raise up a new Adult Connect Group (CG) leader for Sunday morning and one-two more for a mid-week group in Marshall.
- For more men to lead on Wednesday nights in Marshall's Student Ministry.
- To lead our Marshall campus members and attenders to make a tangible impact in the Marshall community by growing in generosity and sacrificial giving to God through the church.
- To provide for Keisha Robinson, one of our young adults who is serving at our church plant in San Antonio and working toward the International Mission Board (IMB) Journeyman missions program.
- To use the Advent and Christmas season to grow our faith and hope for the coming Savior and to prepare us to live as Jesus lived and in light of His return.\
- To open kids' spiritual eyes more and more to the true meaning of Christmas this December. Pray they will be drawn to and experience Jesus in a special way this Christmas Season.
- To provide wisdom and guidance as plans are made for the East Texas Special Friends Regional Conference being held in February. Pray for connections with new families of special needs adults that do not have a church home.
- To raise up five new leaders in the first quarter of 2026 to serve in the Hope and Help Alzheimer's / Dementia respite ministry. Currently there are ten potential participants and family members that would benefit from the expansion of this ministry.
- To bless and use the Women's Ministry team members serving as table hosts for our Sounds of the Season community dinner. Ask God to help each one image Christ beautifully to the women they will serve in attendance from Mercy Manor, Heartisans Marketplace, Graciously Broken, and Rahab's Retreat. Pray that women would walk away knowing Jesus, encouraged by His people, and hungry to grow in Him.
- To guide our Women's Ministry office as they prepare for 2026 ministry endeavors, mission opportunities and leadership development opportunities.
- For calm hearts and loving response to families and individuals in crisis.
- For bravery and courage to walk into the uncomfortable spaces that God leads us into.
- For safe families to rise up and provide care and mentoring for youth in the foster care system.
- For the continued success and attention to Heart Gallery ETx and for the future adoptive families of the children featured in the Gallery.
- For the needs of the children that attend Thrive! for Kids and Students (TFK) to be met. Ask that they feel seen, heard, and valued by the people they come into contact with as they practice the emotional management and self-leadership skills they learned during their time at TFK.
- To help Celebrate Recovery (CR) participants and leaders to stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them.
- For bravery for those that are seeking to release the chains of hurts, habits, and hang-ups and are fearful to take the first steps through the doors of CR.
- For a continued healthy partnership with Dept. Family and Protective Services families.
- For the healthy support of children that remain in state conservatorship.
- For healing of those that are experiencing the dissolution of their marriages and are seeking recovery thru DivorceCare.

- For people grieving a loss, life change and/or challenges
- For single moms in our midst to feel love and a sense of community in their current circumstances.
- For parents to have Godly wisdom in the every-day parenting of children.
- For Thrive! to “speak Jesus” into the hearts of all those with which we interact, endurance when the path gets difficult, and for “next steps” to be made clear and the path to be bathed in His light.
- For wise decision-making in situations that present themselves in the course of ministry.
- For wisdom and protection in new avenues of support for the suffering in our community.
- To hear and respond to the following requests from our ministry partner Hope Haven of East Texas:
 - We’re excited to share that Shyan, who has had five placements and spent 530 days in foster care, has been matched with an adoptive family and will be moving into her new home this month—praise God! Please pray for a smooth transition for Shyan and her adoptive family.
 - Kayla, who has been in foster care for 525 days, recently had her first successful visit with a prospective adoptive family. Please pray that things continue to go well and lead to a successful adoption.
 - We also have several staff members facing serious health challenges, both personally and within their families. We ask for prayers for healing, strength, and peace during this time.
 - Finally, the holiday season can be especially difficult for our girls. Please pray for our staff as they walk alongside them through this emotional season with wisdom, compassion, and grace.
- To show us new ways to serve local pastors and churches through Hope Road Counseling (HRC).
- To lead us as we steward the resources and organization of the counseling ministry at HRC.
- To lead HRC leaders to growing our pool of spiritual directors to partner with Oasis in the Pines and to meet other needs in the community
- To make the holiday season a time of refreshing and renewal physically and spiritually for our counselors and staff at HRC.
- For the HRC counselors to stay physically healthy over the holidays.
- For the counselors to continue to grow spiritually in ways that will impact Hope Road and the clients that we see.
- For each of the ongoing HRC spiritual formation groups to be unified as they share shaping events in their lives and that those attending spiritual formation groups would have a renewed love for their Savior and an awakening to want more of Him in their daily lives.
- To bless Oasis in the Pines (OITP) Retreat participants Dec. 8-15, 2025 and Jan. 5-12, 2026.
- To lead out in participant registration for 2026: Pray for wisdom to connect with pastors, ministers, missionaries and other Christian leaders who will be blessed and strengthened for their ministry through a week at Oasis in the Pines.
- To bless and guide the Oasis Advisory Team. The new team will be meeting in January 2026.
- To lead the Oasis Care Team—Analisa Hood, Sonya Reeder, and Gregg and Tina Zackary. Pray for the ongoing development of infrastructure, processes and structures for an effective and growing ministry. Pray for the discovery and development of additional care team members for Spiritual Direction, Cultivating Conversations, and Hospitality.
- To bless the Oasis Meal Team Volunteers. Pray for Kirsi Ingram and for team members who will be providing food preparation and service to Oasis participants the rest of this fall and January 2026.
- To raise up new Oasis Volunteer Teams. Pray for wisdom to plan, develop and enlist new volunteer teams for Facility Care, Administrative Assistance, Hospitality, and Special Experiences.

- To lead out in the planning, funding and development of Oasis outdoor space: Outdoor Kitchen, Water Feature, Sidewalk and Bridge to Hope Road, Walking Paths to Williams Lake and Prayer Stations.
- To lead in land and facility planning. Pray for the Campus Development Team as they work with architect Steve Fitzpatrick to develop a master plan for Mobberly's land and lakes, including cabins, chapel, and conference space.
- To provide partnerships for continuing and developing partnerships that will facilitate connections between pastors, missionaries, and ministers and Oasis in the Pines and provide scholarships to make participation feasible.
- For wisdom in exploring and writing grants for Oasis in the Pines scholarships and future facility and land development.

Yield: To what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God's sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39 (CSB), "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will." We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God's will. To close our prayer by "yielding" to God is a way in which we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will, which is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God's will and plan are better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning, and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

"¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:10
