**Prelude to Prayer:**

# “Putting our faith in Christ is not about trying harder; it means transferring our trust away from ourselves and resting in him.” ~ Timothy Keller

**Prayer Focus:**

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart*

*and lean not on your own understanding;*

*in all your ways submit to Him,*

*and He will make your paths straight.*

* Lord, You are trustworthy. You are the Maker and straightener of paths. You won’t guide me to a dead end. On Your map, no one is lost. I praise You for Your direction.

* You catch me, Lord. I’m imagining trust falls, tipping over backward

and allowing someone else to keep me from harm. You hold me up. You never fail. You are with me, putting Yourself between me and the hardest landings. I can’t fathom all the things You’ve protected me from.

* Thank You for all the illnesses I don’t have, all the accidents that didn’t occur, all the mistakes that didn’t ruin my life. There’s so much that hasn’t happened to me. Thank You for things I never saw coming because You saved me before I knew to ask. Thank You for what *didn’t* happen when...

* On the flipside, I confess I’m a leaner. I love a good crutch, and when I count the illnesses I *have* had, and the accidents that *did* occur, I can begin to believe my own understanding is more reliable than Yours, like I could care more or better for myself than You can. Perish the thought, God. Actually kill it. I’m embarrassed at my arrogance.

* Forgive me for believing You didn’t love me when…

* Forgive me for doing what I thought was better when we disagreed. Forgive me for not asking You to go first and take the lead.
* I also confess, as a leaner, I need support. I can’t and I don’t stand alone. Be mine, God. Be my rock, my foundation, my comfort and my help.

* When I wobble, teach me to reach out for You. Actually, right now I need some support. I’m having a hard time with…

* I’d like to lean on Your understanding, and that might not mean a full explanation. Help me trust that Your understanding means Your sovereignty, Your power and control, coupled with Your wisdom and love. Help me rest in knowing You’ve got \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in hand.

* When I’m steady, remind me it’s because You’re holding *my* hand.

* I want to ask You for some straight paths this morning, Lord.

* Please take Kathy P straight to recovery after her surgeries.

* Please take Liz and Quinby straight to a safe delivery and healthy baby when the time comes.

* Please take Dave & Luci Yeats, and Scott & Ashley, straight to peace and wisdom in the choices they face about Dave’s cancer and care. Take them straight into Your arms.

* Please take parents straight to patience and children straight to obedience as they all work to practice good choices in a stressful season.

* Take us straight to the foot of Your throne this morning, up close where we can hear what You want to tell each of us to help us through the week You’ve laid out for us ahead.

* Keep me mindful that a straight path is the one with the shortest distance between You and me. I don’t want to beat around the bush. In my right mind, I just want You.

In Jesus’ name, **Amen**.