

Sunday before Epiphany (Christmas 2) – January 5, 2025

WELCOME

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you

ACCLAMATION

Jesus, Lord of time

Hold us in eternity

Jesus, Image of God

Travel with us the life of faith

Jesus, Friend of sinners

Heal the brokenness of our world

Jesus Lord of tomorrow

Draw us into your future. Amen

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open all
desires known and from whom no secrets are
hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your
holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

PSALM 146

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

² I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing
praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the
ground; on that very day their plans come to
nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of
Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down, the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner and
sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he
frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the
beginning is now and shall be forever.
Amen**

SONG

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

CONFESSION

As we reflect on the visit of the Magi to seek the
Saviour, let us confess our failure to seek him in our
lives.

Silence (personal confession)

Gracious God, you guided the wise men to Bethlehem
offering a light for their path, and in faith they
responded

Forgive us for falling short of their example.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

You guide us through the light of your word, the
illumination of your Holy Spirit, the fellowship of your
holy Church and in the encounter of prayer.

**Forgive us for failing to hear your voice and following
your guidance**

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

Forgive us our stubbornness, our foolishness and our
weakness

Forgive us our pride and our lack of faith and perseverance.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Forgive us for ignoring your guidance and resisting your will.

Meet with us again we ask and may the light of your love shine in our hearts, to guide us into the truth we find in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

ABSOLUTION:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you (us) to himself, that you (we) may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your (our) sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG:

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now,
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me

READING: Ephesians 1:3 – 14

*This is the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.*

COLLECT (Special Prayer):

O God,
who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

SONG

Surrounded by such true and gentle powers
So wondrously consoled and without fear
Thus will I spend with you these final hours
And then together enter a new year

*By gentle powers lovingly surrounded
With patience we'll endure, let come what may
God is with us at night and in the morning
And certainly on every future day*

The worries of the old year still torment us
We're troubled still by long and wicked days
Oh Lord give our frightened souls the healing
For which you've chastened us in many ways

And though you offer us the cup so heavy
So painful, it's the most that we can stand
Not faltering, with thanks we will accept it
And take it as a gift from your good hand

And should it be your will once more to grant us
To see the world and to enjoy the sun
Then we will all the past events remember
And finally our life with you is one

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1 – 12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

Glory to you O Lord

*This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.*

SERMON: The visit of the Magi

SONG: Just as I am – I come broken (2936)

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
2
Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

CHORUS:

*I come broken to be mended
I come wounded to be healed
I come desperate to be rescued
I come empty to be filled
I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ the Lamb
And I'm welcomed with open arms
Praise God, just as I am*

3

Just as I am, I would be lost
But mercy and grace my freedom bought
And now to glory in Your cross
Oh Lamb of God I come, I come

CREED:

Let us declare our faith in the incarnation:

**Christ Jesus Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**This we received and this we believe.
Amen**

INTERCESSION:

*Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen*

PEACE

We are the body of Christ, in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERING: *If you prefer to contribute through the bank: Santander Bank account number: **91028603**; sort code: **090155**; St. Saviour's Parochial Church Council. If you prefer to give using the **Parish Giving Scheme** visit their website: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>. We also now have the ability to receive **contactless** contributions.*

Gracious God, for all you have given us, all you will give us and all you give us here and now, we offer you our thanks and praise. Bless this offering of our money and of ourselves to be used in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PERSONAL PRAYER DURING COMMUNION

*During communion there will be an opportunity to receive prayer and anointing with oil from a member of our prayer team. If you would like someone to pray with you, please head to the prayer corner **after** receiving communion or blessing.*

SONG (preparation of table):

Faithful one (89)

HOLY COMMUNION

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and unto the ages of ages. **Amen**

Lord accept your people's gifts, not of gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our Light and our Salvation. **Amen**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks, for, by the leading of a star, you have revealed your holy Son Jesus Christ to the world, that in following him we are led from darkness into his marvellous light, and because of the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God Father, so in faith and trust we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. AMEN.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Jesus Prayer (all)

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God
Have mercy on me a sinner
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God
Have mercy on me a sinner
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God
Have mercy on me a sinner**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Jesus died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.
Amen

**We do not presume to come to this your table,
merciful Lord, trusting in our own
righteousness, but in your manifold and great
mercies. We are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is
always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat
the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to**

drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

SONG

Amazing grace (19)
All to Jesus I surrender (1163)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Grant, O Lord, that as the years change, we may find rest in your unchangeableness. Give us grace to meet this New Year courageously, firm in the faith that while life changes around us, you are ever the same, guiding us with your wisdom and protecting us with your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OF THANKS:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

NOTICES AND BIRTHDAYS

FINAL SONG:

Father, I place into your hands (97)



Blessing

May God the Father keep you in all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon blessing and light. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

NOTICES

1. Please remember to take a **giving envelope** for the year if you use them. And a copy of my **pastoral letter**.
2. Please stay behind if you are able to help us **pack away the Christmas decorations** for another year.
3. Next PCC meeting – January 16, 2025 at 7:30pm.
4. **BIBLE READING CHALLENGE** - read through the Bible in a year if you dare!
5. **Join a Bible Study group** as part of your New Year's resolution.
6. Please remember to **subscribe and use the**  **bell** if you use  YouTube in your **morning and evening prayers.**
 - **Friday fortnight bible Study on zoom every other Friday from 7:30**
 - **Tuesday evening Bible Study each week on zoom from 8pm. ALL ARE INVITED**
7. Church of England daily prayer:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

PRAYER FOR THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD

Lord Jesus Christ you love this world so much that you gave your life for the salvation of this world. We pray for every man, woman and child in every corner of our world, that they will hear the gospel message and be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit. We pray for every country on the planet, for every tribe, for every language, and for every culture to hear the message of your love for them. Raise up pastors and evangelists to bring the gospel to the far reaches of the world. Open their eyes to see Jesus, give them ears to hear and soften their hearts to turn in repentance and faith to the only one who has the power to change their lives – our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ. We pray this is your Name Lord Jesus.
Amen

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

Almighty God, hear the cry of our hearts,
as we hold before you the people of the Holy Land. Be
near those who have lost lives and loved ones, and be
a sure rock to those who are in terror this day.
We pray that, through your spirit of wisdom and
mercy, conflict may cease,
and that the leaders of the nations may work together
for peace and justice between Israeli and Palestinian.
As you wept over Jerusalem, so we ask that you hear
the prayers of those who weep this day for your Holy
Land. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER

*I arise today,
through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
afar and near.*

*Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen*



PRAYER FOCUS:

***If you would like someone to pray with
you, please go to the prayer corner and a
member of our prayer team will pray with
you.***

*Please keep these and others in your prayers this
week.*

*Please keep these and others in your prayers this
week.*

Ex15:26...for I am the Lord who heals you.

*Cast all your cares and anxieties and worries and
fears upon the LORD for he cares for you. (1
Peter 5:7)*

**Roy and Pauline Haywood, Samuel and Pauline
Bookal-Downes, Doreen, Noel Morris,
Suriyakala Johnson, Attlee (and Revd Janetta),
Jean and Walter, Monica, Sue (Daisy and family),
Veronica and Chester, Dolly and Desmond,
Jean Murphy, Pat and Ray Vincent, Muriel,
David Martins, Veronica, Monica and daughter
(Sheryl), Duke, Radcliffe and Pauline, Andy and
Anita, Una, Ann and Richard (*in Wales*), Kianna –
(Ann's granddaughter) and her stepmum – Lucy
and brother Ian, Spencer (*Sophie's son*) ...**

**Happy New Year - may God
shower you with his blessings
during 2025 and beyond.**

*THE COPYRIGHT of words reproduced on this sheet
is protected by Licence CCL 1157449*

<https://stsaviourse7.org.uk/>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StSavioursChurchE7>
<https://www.facebook.com/Stsaviourse7/>
Church's email: stsaviourse7@gmail.com
Vicar's email: revcahenry@gmail.com
Rectory Telephone: 02085558464