

Daily Prayers and Readings

December 2021 and January 2021

At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust.

If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time! Lord, oil the hinges of our heart' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome Your coming.

(Prayer of a New Guinea Christian, The Lion Prayer Collection)

Dear friends,

As we approach Advent, a time of waiting, we reflect on the year that has almost gone. It has been, undoubtedly, unlike any other year we have ever experienced. Perhaps the theme of most of 2020 has been waiting. Waiting for the sick to get well, to hug a dear friend or family member, for a vaccine to be available, indeed, for us to return to the freedoms we have so long taken for granted.

The people of God have, throughout time, waited patiently. Waiting is a recurrent theme. The time before Christmas is a time of anticipation and waiting for the gift of this Holy season. If we pay attention, God will surprise us with his presence. If we wait in stillness, we will find him in unexpected places.

Until we are all together again, every blessing for a joyful Christmas and a hope filled New Year. JD

The weekly readings are taken from the Common Lectionary and reflect those used on the immediate Sunday in our own church and very many others. In normal times we use them on a daily basis in our chapel at 10am. They can be used equally for private devotions. In the chapel the prayers of Intercession include those requested by members of the public and our own congregation. We pray too for our sister church in Fenstanton, for the local community, for Churches Together in St Ives, and the Imans and worshippers at the local Mosques. We pray for each other and our world.

December 2020

*L. Oh Lord, you have set before us the great hope
that your kingdom shall come on earth.
and have taught us to pray for its coming:*

*R. Give us grace to discern
the signs of its dawning,
and to work for the perfect day
when your will shall be done on earth
as it is in heaven;*

All. Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

(The Promise of His Glory, 1991)

*Let us keep silent for our personal reflection
and confession.*

*All. Enfold O God, those for whom pain is at its sharpest
May your stars shine gently upon them
May the Christchild bring joy through their tears
Let the rose blossom with the thorn
May hearts be enjoined
Both with love and hope
Be with us this Advent time
Be with us this Christmastide*

Amen

(F. Wupp, An Interior Anthology, 2003)

THE READING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*To the words 'Merciful Father' please respond with
'Hear us in your steadfast love'.*

THE LORDS PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us this day our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever* *Amen*

L. By the obedience of Mary,

*R. Lord made flesh
Dwell among us.*

L. By the understanding of Joseph,

*R. Lord made flesh
Dwell among us.*

L. By the song of the angels,

R. *Lord made flesh
Dwell among us.*

L. *By your birth in a manger*

R. *Lord made flesh
Dwell among us.*

L. *By the adoration of the shepherds*

R. *Lord made flesh
Dwell among us.*

All. *By the worship of the wise men*

R. *Lord made flesh
Dwell among us. Amen*
(The Rhythm of Life, David Adam, 1996)

All. *The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son
And God's peace to you Amen*
(Irish Christmas blessing)

THE GRACE

All. *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us
all ever more. Amen*

January 2021

L. *Clocks tick
Time turns
Bells chime
The New Year sweeps across the world in glory.*

R. *Glory to you, God of history and new beginnings.
Glory to you, Lord of eternity.*

All. *May we use your gift of time
more carefully
more prayerfully
more peacefully
from now on and forever Amen*
(Kate McIlhagga, The Green Heart of the Snowdrop, 2004)

*Let us keep silent for our personal reflection and
confession.*

All. *Breathe upon us Gracious God, I pray
And show upon us this day Your Star
Which you did once show to the Magi,
That as it formerly guided them to Christ
So, it may lead us to the Mysteries of Christ
Amen*
(Marcilio Ficino 1433-1499)

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Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us this day our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever*

Amen

- L. God, creator of all,
For people who are displaced;
may they find a safe refuge*
- R. For people who have lost control of their lives;
may they know a sure foundation*

- L. For people who live in fear;
may they be given a strong fortress.*
- R. For people who are disillusioned;
may they have hope in a future.*
- All. Loving Father, in times of crisis, sorrow and
uncertainty;
We ask that you draw near.*

Amen

- L. Eternal light, shine in our hearts;
Eternal goodness, deliver us from evil;
Eternal power, be our support;
Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our
ignorance;
Eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and strength
we may seek your face
and be brought by your infinite mercy
to your holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord*

Amen

(Alcuin of York, 735-804)

THE GRACE

*All. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us
all ever more.*

Amen

*This space is for your
own notes*

Transformation

*Transformation into the ideal state
Might take time and effort.
Your kingdom come*

*Give us eyes to see a twinkling
Of what is possible.
Your kingdom come*

*Give us ears to hear the tones
Of harmony in working with others.
Your kingdom come.*

*When 'give' and 'take' are innately difficult
Help us to restore our communities.
Your kingdom come.*

*Give us rest for the weary heart
In our struggles with intricate details.
Your kingdom come.*

*Awake in us some vision
And let us dream with you.
Your kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.*

(Dr Christine McLeod)

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Readings for December

Special dates for the month of December

1st December - World Aids Day Christmas Eve 24th December
Christmas Day 25th December

Tues	1 st	Isaiah 40 v 1 - 11
Weds	2 nd	Psalms 40
Thurs	3 rd	2 Peter 3 v 8 - 15a
Fri	4 th	Psalms 10
Sat	5 th	Mark 1v 1 - 8
Mon	7 th	Psalms 126
Tues	8 th	Isaiah 61
Weds	9 th	Psalms 24
Thurs	10 th	1 Thessalonians 5 v 16 - 24
Fri	11 th	Psalms 25
Sat	12 th	John 1 v 6 - 8, 19 - 28
Mon	14 th	Psalms 89 v 1 - 4, 19 - 26
Tues	15 th	2 Samuel 7 v 1 - 11, 16
Weds	16 th	Luke 1 v 46 - 55
Thurs	17 th	Romans 16 v 25 - 27
Fri	19 th	Psalms 113
Sat	19 th	Luke 1 v 26 - 38
Mon	21 st	Psalms 96
Tues	22 nd	Isaiah 9 v 2 - 7
Weds	23 rd	Psalms 97
Thurs	24 th	Luke 2 v 1 - 20
Fri	25 th	John 1 v 1 - 14
Sat	26 th	Hebrews 1 v 1 - 12
Mon	28 th	Psalms 124
Tues	29 th	Jonah 1
Weds	30 th	Psalms 146
Thurs	31 st	1 John 2 v 18 - 21

Readings for January

Special dates for the month of January

6th January - Epiphany
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th - 25th January
Holocaust Memorial Day - January 27th

Fri	1 st	Luke 2 v 41 - 52
Sat	2 nd	Matthew 2 v 13 - 23
Mon	4 th	Psalms 29
Tues	5 th	Genesis 1 v 1 - 5
Weds	6 th	Psalms 33
Thurs	7 th	Acts 19 v 1 - 7
Fri	8 th	Psalms 39
Sat	9 th	Mark 1 v 4 - 11
Mon	11 th	Psalms 139 v 1 - 5, 12 - 18
Tues	12 th	1 Samuel 3 v 1 - 20
Weds	13 th	Psalms 103
Thu	14 th	Revelations 5 v 1 - 10
Fri	15 th	Psalms 77
Sat	16 th	John 1 v 43 - 51
Mon	18 th	Psalms 128
Tues	19 th	Genesis 14 v 17 - 20
Weds	20 th	Psalms 102
Thurs	21 st	Revelations 19 v 6 - 10
Fri	22 nd	Psalms 106
Sat	23 rd	John 2 v 1 - 11
Mon	25 th	Psalms 111
Tues	26 th	Deuteronomy 18 v 15 - 20
Weds	27 th	Psalms 134
Thu	28 th	Revelations 12 v 1 - 5a
Fri	29 th	Psalms 137
Sat	30 th	Mark 1 v 21 - 28