

## *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)*

## *THE READING*

### *PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

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Hear us in your steadfast love'.*

### *THE LORDS PRAYER*

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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

1<sup>st</sup> December - World Aids Day Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December

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

## Readings for January

### Special dates for the month of January

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

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