

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3: 4, 6

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

These scriptures teach us to be moved to action just as John the Baptist, who was called by God to get the road ready for the Messiah. God's grace and mercy was upon him and instructed him what to do.

This is our instruction, too. What will we do this Advent to prepare for Jesus' coming?

Collect: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before His glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Our God is always ready to hear our prayers. Let us be still and pray to Him now.

Hope is a Star

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

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Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

Brian Wren 1985

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. Isaiah 61: 1

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalms 146: 4-9

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

We shall see the glory of the Lord, rejoice in joy and gladness. The Lord will reign forever for all generations. Be patient. He is coming. John was preparing the way and we, now, celebrate this great expectation. Jesus fulfills the great statements of prophecy in the scriptures. Let us be open to receive Him.

Collect: God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when He comes, He may find us waiting in awe and wonder for Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Knowing that our God loves and listens, let us pray to Him now.

Lord, your church is full of possibility and yet so vulnerable; it is so urgently needed by our world and yet often so weak; strengthen each member of the body and increase our sense of expectation so that we live with your life.

Faithful God: you are the rock we stand on.

Lord, in our constantly changing world, with its shifting values and fragile ecological balance, root us deeply in your unchanging nature of mercy, goodness, faithfulness and love.

Faithful God: you are the rock we stand on.

Lord, we welcome you into our homes, our streets and our communities where we are blind to your presence. Give us sight, in the ordinary and the remarkable. Help us to recognize our true and living God.

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Faithful God: you are the rock we stand on.

Lord, all of the needs of your children are known to you; with God given love we bring to mind those who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, that they may find you there beside them in these dark and painful days.

Faithful God: you are the rock we stand on.

Lord, to you whom eternity is natural, help us to realize that time is not the whole story, and welcome into your Kingdom those who have lived this life in your company and have now passed through death. Comfort those of us here whose hearts are heavy with grieving.

Faithful God: you are the rock we stand on.

Lord, awaken us to expect you with joy. We give you thanks for your tender parenting and your unfailing patience with us. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1: 23

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

The prophecy of a virgin birth is proclaimed in Isaiah, a son promised, who will be called Emmanuel, God with us! He will also be called the Good Shepherd in the Psalm. In Romans, Paul, who loved the Lord, proclaimed Him God's only Son, a descendant of David. Matthew's gospel proclaims the fulfillment of this prophecy, as God came to Joseph in a dream and gave him a message and instruction for the virgin birth to carry out and to not be afraid. Let us quieten and still ourselves and feel God's presence with us now.

O Adonai: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the Burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm. *Cf. Exodus 3:2, 24:12*

Collect: Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Through the willing participation of Mary and Joseph, God is poised to come among His people as their Saviour. Let us pray.

Lord, we long for our church to be alive and active, attentive to you, and ready to go wherever you suggest. Show us the work of the church from your point of view, and develop our will to co-operate.

We call on your name, O God: restore us and revive us.

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

Lord, we long for your Kingdom to come in our world, and to flood with truth and love the disillusion, hopelessness and terror which traps the human spirit, and chokes its potential joy.

We call on your name, O God: restore us and revive us.

Lord, come into the daily relationships we so easily take for granted, and enable us to value one another, delighting in one another's richness, and responding to one another's needs with love.

We call on your name, O God: restore us and revive us.

Lord, we know the need and pain of those we love and worry about. As you look after them, give the sense of your caring presence to uphold and sustain them.

We call on your name, O God: restore us and revive us.

Lord, for us death can be so cruel: give us a better understanding of eternity, and gather into your kingdom all those whose early journey has come to an end.

We call on your name, O God: restore us and revive us.

Thank you, Lord of hope, for the way you surprise us with joy, and show us the extraordinary and the wonderful in the ordinary things of life. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

December 25, 2022

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm 96

Titan 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

People who have walked in darkness have now seen a great light. The angels proclaimed His birth and His light shines brightly for all to see who have witnessed His grace and salvation. The word of God is made flesh. Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.

Collect: O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, let us pray with thankful hearts.

The bells and lights, presents and decorations in church and in our homes express our thanks to you, O Lord, for coming into world in person.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

The world Jesus was born into was the world we know. Thank you for being prepared to face the dangers and risks of human mistakes and sin in order to save us.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

Many of us will be celebrating with our families and friends. We invite you to join us in all the festivities, and ask you to teach us true loving.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

We remember those who find Christmas a sad or lonely season; we remember those for whom it brings to the surface memories, anxieties or dangers. Through good and difficult times you are always with us.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

We remember those whose loved ones have died, and all those who have finished with earthly celebrations. May they celebrate with you and all the angels in heaven.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

For all the many blessings of this past year and for all the good that you have enabled us to do; for the experiences that have taught us humility and patience, we thank you.

On this Christmas Day we want to say: Thank you Holy God!

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

Alongsiders' Prayers for December 2022

January 01, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord
The Naming of Jesus

God spoke of old by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son. Hebrews 1: 1-2

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

Praise to God for His loving kindness. Praise Him from heaven, to earth, to the depths of the sea. Jesus is the expression of God's love. He lives as a vulnerable boy in the real world in which we all live. Let us pray to God who travels with us in this new year in all our celebrations and tragedies, and understands what it is like to be human. Let us meditate on His word and walk more closely; be more attentive to His voice.

Collect: Eternal Father, we give thanks for your incarnate Son, whose name is our salvation. Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

As we celebrate Christmas, when the Word of God became flesh, we pray for the church and the Body of Christ. May we be so filled with God's loving life that our actions touch the world with hope which lasts even when Christmas decorations are put away.

Thank you, Lord God: for coming to save us.

As the world is reminded of love and peace in the words of carols, may the reality of a God who loves us so much transform our social and political thinking, and energize our plans and negotiations.

Thank you, Lord God: for coming to save us.

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As Christmas brings together family members and friends, and we make contact with those we seldom meet, may all our relationships be nourished with love and forgiveness; and may we value one another more.

Thank you, Lord God: for coming to save us.

We remember all those who are forced to escape from their homes, and live without security; we think particularly of those with young children who are homeless or in danger.

Thank you, Lord God: for coming to save us.

We pray for those whose earthly journey has come to an end, and those who have tended to them during their dying; we pray for those who have died through violence, and for those who have much to forgive.

Thank you, Lord God: for coming to save us.

Lord, we recognize our great need of your grace, and give you thanks and praise for making possible what would otherwise be impossible. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace