

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 2023

January 8, 2023

The Baptism of the Lord

A voice came from heaven, saying, "this is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3: 17

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3: 13-17

A voice from heaven, one we long to hear for reassurance, for help in our times of distress, an answer to decisions. A voice we sometimes question, is this God or our imagination? We pray for answers to prayer and wait for God's answer. We can be assured that God does indeed answer our prayers and most certainly hears them. God sent His Son Jesus to live as one of us in human flesh. He knows, hears, feels just like us. He was baptized like us and heard His Father's voice. We are very blessed in the name of Jesus. He blesses us with peace beyond our understanding.

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As Jesus is baptized, the Spirit of God rests on Him visibly, marking Him out as the One who will save His people. Let us attune our hearts to the God who loves us.

God of love, we pray for those who are newly baptized, or who have recently found that you are real. We pray for all in ordained and lay ministries and for those sensing a special calling. Help us all to listen to your girding.

In God: all things work together for good.

God of power, we pray for those who are in authority and in positions of influence and responsibility. May they be earthed in humility, courageous in integrity and mindful of the need to serve.

In God: all things work together for good.

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God of mercy, we call to mind those with whom we share the work and leisure of our life. We pray for those we treasure and those battle with, and ask you to breathe into all our relationships the forgiving love which cleanses and heals.

In God: all things work together for good.

God of wholeness, we remember those who are aching today in body, mind, or spirit, knowing that nothing is unredeemable. We ask that you will bring good even out of those barren places.

In God: all things work together for good.

God of live, we pray for those whose earthly life has ended. We remember those who have died violently and tragically, suddenly and unprepared. We give thanks for lives well lived and for happy memories. May they rest in the eternal peace of heaven.

In God: all things work together for good.

God of faithfulness, we thank you for the way you always keep your promises and never let us down.

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

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 2023

January 15, 2023

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

The word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. To all who receive Him, He gave power to become children of God. John 1: 14

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalm 40: 1-11

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

God is always faithful, we need to be patient and trust that we are in His care. John's faithfulness and the sign of the dove at Jesus' baptism, affirmed to John that Jesus was the Messiah. When Andrew met the Messiah, he then went out and brought Simon, his brother, to Him. Who are we bringing to the Messiah? He is our King of Glory, our Prince of Peace.

Collect: Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jesus is recognized and pointed out by John to be God's chosen one. Let us voice our cares and concerns knowing that God is listening to us.

Lord God, make yourself known to the people who come into our churches, or who pass by and sometimes wonder, but have not yet come in. Make us better bearers of your life to those who need you, but have never met you.

True and living God: we want to know you more.

Lord God, the world lurches from crisis to crisis, and there is much misleading and misdirecting. Help us to recover the natural sense of what is right and just, honest and good, so that our hearts are inclined to hear your voice of leading and respond to it.

True and living God: we want to know you more.

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Lord God, help us to take more seriously our responsibility of helping one another move forward into faith. We pray for those in our own families whom we would love to bring to know you and for those who have drifted away.

True and living God: we want to know you more.

Lord God, there are some who are going through very distressing, painful and worrying times. We stand alongside them now and ask for them your comfort, reassurance, healing and peace of mind.

True and living God: we want to know you more.

Lord God, even as we pray now, there are those journeying through death. We pray for them, for all who have recently died and for all those left without their loved ones, grieving or numbed with shock.

True and living God: we want to know you more.

Lord God, we thank you for all those who have directed us to know you better, and for the way you are drawing us closed into friendship with you.

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 JANUARY 2023

January 22, 2023

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed every infirmity among the people. Matthew 4: 23

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 9: 1-4

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23

The prophecy in Isaiah is fulfilled in Matthew of the coming of the Messiah, the one who would bring us out of darkness into light. Jesus preached repentance. He preached the gospel, healed the sick and cured many diseases. Today there is still healing and miracles happening through the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ the Messiah. God works through us to show His light of peace, love and healing. The Lord is our light and our salvation. He brought us out of darkness into light. Praise His Holy name.

Collect: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The prophecies of Isaiah are fulfilled in a new and lasting way in Jesus of Nazareth. Let us pray to the loving God we have seen in Jesus.

We pray that the light of God will shine in all the dark corners of the church, and set us free from prejudice, small mindness and hypocrisy, that as the members of the body of Christ, we can move freely through the power of God wherever we are called to, available and active in God's service.

Lord God of Power: set us free to live

We pray that our world may be lit by this light in the darkness to bring freedom and hope where there is oppression, recognition and respect where there is none, and in all conflicts positive ways forward.

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Lord God of Power: set us free to live.

We pray that in our homes, workplaces and our neighbourhoods, the light of Godly loving may soften harsh edges, encourage mutual caring and heal dysfunctional or damaging relationships.

Lord God of Power: set us free to live.

We pray that all those whose lives are trapped by the past, by rejection, guilt, pain or anxiety may be set free and encouraged to live to the full.

Lord God of Power: set us free to live.

We pray for those who have died, and those who miss them and are finding it very hard to cope with their loss. We pray for all those who have no one to help them through that last journey.

Lord God of Power: set us free to live.

Thank you, Father, for transforming our suffering and our mistakes again and again. 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 JANUARY 2023

January 29, 2023

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is in heaven. Matthew 5: 12

Scripture Readings

Micah 6: 1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Matthew 5: 1-12

The Lord has shown us what is right and what is required of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. Do what is right. Turn from our old ways of wrong doing that we may dwell with God. God uses what is considered foolish and despised in this world to reveal His truth, so He alone will receive glory. Christ not only imparts wisdom, but also righteousness the Christian cannot boast except in the Lord. *The Sermon on the Mount* tells us how blessed we are.

Collect: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jesus shows us in action and loving provision of the God who made us. Let us pray to the God of love, who listens to the people of His making. Holy God, we bring before you all that we are, with as much honesty and openness as we can. We know your church is weakened by disunity, misplaced priorities, complacency and fear. We pray for a new awakening of our calling to be people of God. Give us a fresh understanding of your will and empower us with nothing short of your life lived out in us.

You alone are our God: and we trust in you.

Holy God, give all the nations and peoples of our world such respect and love for creation that we learn to take proper responsibility for the resources we share and the universe we inhabit. Give us courage to make good decisions even if they involve us in conflict or discomfort.

You alone are our God: and we trust in you.

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 2023

Holy God we pray for greater awareness of your presence in our homes and places of work, in our care and in public transport, in the shops, schools and hospitals, and wherever people meet together. Teach us how to live lovingly with honesty and compassion, teach us how to live thankfully, and work on our habit of grumbling.

You alone are our God: and we trust in you.

Holy God, we bring to you those we know who are suffering with prolonged illness, debilitating pain and emotional distress. Lay your hands on them to bring relief and healing, courage to live through this dark time, and the inner strength which only you can give.

You alone are our God: and we trust in you.

Holy God, we pray for those making the journey through death, and those who have died to this earthly life. Thank you for all they have given us. Comfort those who miss them, and through your mercy receive us all, in our time, to live in the peace and joy of your eternity.

You alone are our God: and we trust in you.

Holy God, we thank you for making yourself known to us in the many blessings of life, and most of all in the person of Jesus, the Christ.

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace