

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER 2025

December 7, 2025

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 Readings:

- Isaiah 11: 1-10
- Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
- Romans 15: 4-13
- Matthew 3: 1-12

In the scriptures of Isaiah he proclaims the message of the coming of the Messiah and how God's love will be announced. We praise God for His love for us as He instructs and teaches us through the scriptures. In the gospel of Matthew John the Baptist teaches us about repentance and announces the promise of one who is coming is so powerful that He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. We are all called to repent of our sins and receive the risen Christ as we begin this season of Advent with gifts of love and forgiveness from God our Lord and Saviour through Jesus Christ. Get ready for the Lord.

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.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all those who remind us to be kind and loving by their words and example. We pray that as a church we

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may get ready to welcome you and put right whatever blocks us from your love.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

We pray that the lines of communication between people and nations may be kept open, respected and honoured and that where communication has broken down there may be a new desire for healing.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those making and preparing roads, travelling on them and stuck in traffic jams. We pray for towns and villages linked by roads and for a public transportation system that protects the environment and serves the community.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

We pray for those we see and talk to every day or every week and for those we often argue with or misunderstand. We pray for those who brighten our lives and make us smile and for a greater thankfulness and appreciation of those we usually take for granted.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

We pray for those we have hurt or upset, for those who feel isolated and alone and for the sick and the stressed.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

We pray for the dying and those who have died to this earthly life. May they know the eternal peace of your heaven and those left who miss them receive your comfort.

Come to us, Lord: we know our need of you.

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Heavenly Father, we thank you for helping us to get ourselves ready to receive you. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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December 14, 2025

Third 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
- Psalm 146: 4-9
- James 5: 7-10
- Matthew 11: 2-11

The Lord chose John the Baptise to be a forerunner of the good news of the coming of Christ. We learn of the patience in waiting and never lose hope. The gospel message is the same today as then. We are the carriers of the gospel message through our love and actions, by being Christ-like in all our daily work and by spreading that joy to everyone.

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.

Jesus fulfills the great statement of prophecy. Knowing that our God loves us and listens let us pray to Him now.

Lord, your Church is so full of possibility and yet so vulnerable, it is so urgently needed by our world yet often 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.

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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.

Faithful God: You are the rock we stand on.

Lord, all 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 times.

Faithful God: You are the rock we stand on.

Lord, to 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 grief.

Faithful God: You are the rock we stand on.

Lord, awaken us to expect 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. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to His word.

Luke 1: 38

Scripture Readings:

- Isaiah 7: 10-16
- Psalm 24
- Romans 1: 1-7
- Matthew 1: 18-25

Isaiah foretells the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before He was born. The Psalms tell us to open the gates and let the King of Glory in. In Romans Paul writes as a servant of God preaching the good news of Jesus in Rome and Matthew tells of Jesus' coming in a dream by Joseph. An angel appeared to Joseph and told him that his wife Mary will have a son and he will be called Immanuel, "God with us." These are all signs and wonders of God's love to us and everyone at Christmas time and always. He is only a prayer away today. Joy to the world, sing praises to His Holy name.

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 quieten ourselves to notice our God here with us now and attentive to our deepest needs. Lord, we long for our Church to be alive and active, attentive to you and ready to go where you suggest. Show us the work of the Church from your point of view and develop our will to co-operate.

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

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 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 riches and responding to one another's needs with love.

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

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

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

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

We call on your name, O God: restore 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 in 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 2025

December 28, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3: 15, 16

Scripture Readings:

- Isaiah 63: 7-9
- Psalm 148
- Hebrews 2: 10-18
- Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

God's love and kindness to us is immeasurable. He came to earth in human form to walk with us and to share His humanity with us. He was tempted but did not sin and He can help us. Praise His name always. Emmanuel, God is with us!

Collect: Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jesus, the expression of God's love, lives as a vulnerable boy in the real and dangerous world we all live. Let us pray to the God who travels with us in all our celebrations and tragedies and understands what it is like to be human. As we celebrate Christmas when the word of God became flesh we pray for the Church, 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.

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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.

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 forced to escape from their homes and live without security. We think particularly of those with children who are homeless and 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 them during their dying. We pray for those who have died through violence and 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