

Prayers and Readings for December 2020

If you wish to join in with our telephone worship, please call **0333 011 0616**, then enter the access code, **286 7552** followed by # (not £ as the lady says!). You will be asked to say your name and enter # and, in a moment or two you will be connected. Please dial in before 11am

6 Dec: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

13 Dec: Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8 & 19-28

20 Dec: 2 Samuel 7:1-11 & 16; Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

27 Dec: Isaiah 61:10 to 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 - Communion

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- 1. Call to worship:** Stand upright and hold your heads high, because your liberation is near.
Luke 21:28
- 2. Prayer:** God of glory, as we come together to celebrate this Advent and Christmas we are aware your splendour shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, **Amen**
- 3. First Reading**
- 4. Prayer: (Adoration)** Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past. You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel. You have challenged us in the words of the prophets. You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.
Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now. You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us. You come to us through men and women who need our help. You come to us as we worship you with your people.
Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end. You will be with us at the hour of death. You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail. You will still be God when our history has run its course.
We welcome you, the God of Advent. Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**
- 5. Second Reading**
- 6. Prayer: (Confession)** Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of the darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Use this advent time to break open our hearts, throw open the doors, open our eyes to your presence and open our arms wide to welcome you. We pray through Christ our Lord, **Amen**.
- 7. Third Reading**
- 8. Prayer: (Thanksgiving)** Almighty God, we thank you for the holy scriptures, in which you have revealed to us your Son Jesus Christ as the fulfilment of the law and prophets, the promised Messiah of Israel, and the Redeemer of humankind. Grant that we, who gratefully celebrate his advent and acknowledge him as your living Word, may walk in the light of his truth and make known the good news of his kingdom in all the world. So we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. We pray in His name, **Amen**
- 9. Fourth Reading**
- 10. Prayer: (Intercession)** Pray for those things that come to you from the bible readings. Pray for the world situation, your own community and family and friends. Pray for those that are suffering and those that work tirelessly to help others. Pray for our governments and leaders. Pray for your church and fellowships. Remember those that are unwell.
- 11. Lord's Prayer**
- 12. Closing Prayer:** Almighty God, you wonderfully created and restored our human nature. Grant that we may share in the divine life of your Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, **Amen**
- 13. Grace:** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen