

## Some topics for prayer

That we may get to know Jesus ever more fully: through Scripture - reason - Church traditions - prayer - the Holy Spirit.

Review last year; look ahead to the New Year.

People who are worried about the covid-19 virus and its new variants.

The fair and just distribution of the covid-19 vaccine across the world.

People who are victim in any way to the pandemic.

People across the world who have to make decisions about how to manage the pandemic.

The street you live in and individuals in it.

Members of your family. Friends. Not-so-friends.

Our town, our nation and our world.

Our NHS. Our schools and care homes.

People who work in our public services.

Caring for our planet and sharing its resources fairly and sustainably.

People living anywhere in the world where there is famine, war, poverty, pandemic, depression, hopelessness ...

## Some prayers ('collects') set for today

God our Father,  
in love you sent your Son that the world may have life:  
lead us to seek him among the outcast  
and to find him in those in need,  
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Please take this leaflet home with you.*

*May God bless you and everyone you love and pray for.*

## Welcome to private prayer

for

**2<sup>nd</sup> January**

**2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
Christmas**



"And the Word  
became  
flesh and dwelt  
among us."

*John 1:14*

This sheet offers you one of the readings set for today, together with a structured way of reading it prayerfully. It also offers you prayers set for today, some other prayers, and ideas for topics for prayer.

But first and foremost, let us 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)

### The Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.

***You can hear or watch our weekly  
services - around 20 minutes - on our  
website***

## A reading set for today

*Here is a suggestion for a structured way of reading prayerfully. It is based on an ancient practice called Lectio Divina.*

First, breathe slowly and deeply.

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

1<sup>st</sup> reading of the passage: listen.

Read through the passage once, silently, but 'saying each word out loud in your mind', and listening.

Allow a word or phrase to attract your attention. Let it arise naturally from the passage as if it were God's word for you today, however unexpected.

Say it to yourself a few times, or underline it with a pen.

2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the passage: ponder.

Read the passage a second time. As you read and listen, ask how and why this word or phrase is speaking to you.

Summarise what it means for you.

3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the passage: pray.

Read the passage a third time, prayerfully asking Christ what he is saying to you in this word or phrase, and listen.

What is it that you need to do - or consider - or relinquish - or take on - as a result of what God is saying to you?

Talk to God about it in prayer.

*Here is space to jot things down, to take away and to return to later:*

## Some insights from John's introduction to his gospel

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

John 1:14,16-28 (NRSV translation)

### ***I wonder ...***

... what are the key words in this passage, about Jesus?

*You might like to underline them or circle them.*

... what is your favourite?

... what do they say to you about Jesus?

... what do they say about Jesus' relationship with God?

... what do they say about who Jesus is?

... in what ways we can know Jesus more fully?

***... and why?***