

Short daily prayers for people and situations, our Church, our local Community and further afield.



#### Tuesday 1st

Heavenly Father, this our darkest month of December, with the shortest winter day and the longest night, actually heralds the coming of the light of life. 'Immanuel' means 'God is with us'; Jesus, born to Mar y, enters our world. Lord Jesus as we celebrate the advent of your coming we are glad to sing our praise to You, along with the multitude of the heavenly host, the angels at Bethlehem, praising God and saying:- "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is well pleased".

## Wednesday 2nd

So often we forget just how fortunate we That we are a step away from - "Home and hearth or homeless"; "warm and well fed or wet, cold and hungry"; "loved or unloved". Lord Jesus we are so, so blessed here in TVP, surrounded by all good things, 'plenty' is overflowing and yet so often we are still not satisfied....grant us to be more aware of those we can reach out to with an open heart, a generous hand, a word of encouragement, a gift of support or a kind act. Please love someone who is poor, sad and lonely through me today and over this Christmas time....Jesus give me Your generous spirit.

#### Thursday 3rd

Thank You Lord for gifts of music and painting. Music brings us nearer to Your heart which sings with love! And we can express our love for You in our words of song and making music. You paint the sky in colours glorious beyond words, beyond anything we can reproduce with even the greatest artist's skills. You give us gifts, let us worship You with them!

#### Friday 4th

Lord, as my days become busy with writing cards, buying gifts and making sure that I'm ready for Christmas, remind me each morning that it's all about you and to always put you at the top of my list!

#### Saturday 5th

Heavenly Father, we cannot measure Your love for us, just accept it! You hold our future inYour hands and we can only go there in confidence with You holding our hand. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. In Him we trust. We are held fast in Your glorious, gracious love and cannot ask for more! You are ever constant, ever loving, ever to be trusted. Lord Jesus Christ we place our trust in You.

## SUNDAY 6th Second Sunday in Advent

As of old Father, You foretold by Your prophet Micah, the coming of Your Son Jesus, "and he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God". Call to us Jesus as our shepherd and as we listen and hear Your voice, go before us and let us follow closely in Your footsteps. Thank you Jesus that You are our 'good shepherd' and that we can trust and follow You.

# Monday 7th

We pray today for those families struggling to afford Christmas. Those who have lost jobs and income, those who will not be able to buy presents and put a special meal on the table for their children and those who cannot find a place for You in their heart. Guide us to where we can bring Your love to those in most need, to those who are lonely, sad and lost.

## **Tuesday 8th**

Loving Father, may I know Your comfort in times of uncertainty. May I hear Your quietness amid the noise. May I have Your rest within my toil. May I feel Your presence within my soul. May Your peace be with me today and always.

## Wednesday 9th

Love can stop a war! At Christmas time 1914 when the 'enemies' in WW1 exchanged presents and sang carols together, love did just that as soldiers remembered that Christmas Day celebrates God's love for mankind in the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem. The 'Great War' stopped for a few

wintry hours! "Love came down at Christmas, love amazing, love divine" - Yes, love stopped a war! Our prayer this Christmas is that wars will cease around the world and that the love of Jesus will break out instead! One day when the glory comes!!!

## Thursday 10th

Even though we have uncertainty of being together with family at Christmas, when loneliness will be felt more acutely, we pray Jesus for Your assurance that we are all loved by You in a way that will bring us together more meaningfully at this time. Be close to us Lord, and our loved ones and may we show Your love through ways that bring us together over the miles, one in spirit, one in voice and one in heart!

## Friday 11th

Thank you Father for the creation of your animal kingdom in our world. In the story of Your birth we find sheep, an ox and a donkey, camels. You smelt the rich scents of the stable with Your first breaths. So it was that the animals welcomed you too! What a joy it is to live in this wonderful world and to see the amazing animals and plants that are so beautiful.

# Saturday 12th

Our Christmas wish. We look forward in hope to the coming of our Saviour, we prepare the way for Christ our Lord; we welcome Him when He comes in glory; bringing to mankind the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

## SUNDAY 13th Third Sunday in Advent



God of hope, at this time of advent, we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience as they stepped out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act. Amen.

# Monday 14th

Lord You walk alongside our emergency services people, our doctors and nurses, care home staff, mountain rescue teams, our essential services engineers and technicians and we pray that Your presence is felt and seen in their love and dedication to their jobs. When all our confidence is stripped away, Lord we need You so very much. Come Jesus, at those times, strengthen us and in Your love, walk beside us we pray.

# Tuesday 15th

What happens at Christmas goes far beyond our celebrations.. Blessings come down from Heaven; indescribable glory shines into our world; and we are given the opportunity of having our sins forgiven. So, we marvel and we pray: 'In the coming of Christ the day of our deliverance is dawning. For He comes to judge the world with justice, and the people by His faithfulness.



## Wednesday 16th

Loving Father, as Christmas approaches may your tender love surround us now and always, and may we see the light of your smiling face outshining all other lights.

# Thursday 17th

Dear Father, sometimes we find it so difficult to show our love to others. Through your love for us, help us to show Your love to others in our thoughts, words and deeds. Amen

## Friday 18th

Lord, we pray that today our hearts may be opened in the Holy Spirit to see You as Simeon did in the temple. That our eyes may see Your salvation prepared for all people, a light for revelation and to the glory of God now and forever. May the true meaning of Christmas be found in us and in the world as it is revealed to all people. Come Lord Jesus, Hallelujah and Amen!

## Saturday 19th

1 John 4:7-8 : 'Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.'

# SUNDAY 20th Fourth Sunday in Advent



Abba, my Father, at this time of Advent, may I be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

# Monday 21st

The shepherds watched and the angel of the Lord appeared, then the glory of God shone around, bringing good news of great joy for all people. Heavenly Father, just as then people need to hear Your good news today. So please fill us with so much joy, we cannot help ourselves but to tell others the 'good news' that is for them.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that

will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a **Saviour**, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is well pleased!" Luke 2:14

## Tuesday 22nd

Creator God, for the wind which gusts violently or blows softly upon my face; for the rain which swells the rivers or gently refreshes my garden; for the sun which scorches the land or pleasantly warms my skin; for the mystery of the moon and stars which light the night sky; for your steadfast love which endures forever, we thank you Lord.

# Wednesday 23rd

## A 'cool' children's prayer

"Wow, Jesus, you're really cool - thanks for letting us have Christmas! It's great and Santa's pretty cool too, flying all round the world in one night with presents to leave under the Christmas tree for us! Now that is some cool power on that sleigh!! Sure the presents, tree and all of us being together, those things are ok. But, really Christmas is about you, being born as a baby - just like my wee sister is - and you coming down from heaven and then really living with us. You're a really cool guy Jesus - and you did all this just for us! Now that's really, really super cool!! I love you and you love me.....wow!! Super cool man!"

## Christmas Eve

Lord Jesus, today we will celebrate Your coming with our Christingle and Watch-night services. You gave us the fruits of the earth. Your blood was shed on the cross for our forgiveness and You bring us Your light. Bless our Christingle service this afternoon that Your love may shine forth and lives will be touched. "I am the light of the world" John 8:12. As midnight nears in Fala Kirk may the hush of expectation and joy of Your birth fall on those gathered there. "And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around." Luke 2:9

# CHRISTMAS DAY "Happy Christmas everybody!!"

'I bring you good news, news of great joy for the whole nation. Today there has been born to you in the city of David a

deliverer - the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10) 'God has caused his light to shine in our hearts, the light which is knowledge of the glory in the face of Jesus Christ' (2Cor.4:6) Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him. Grant that, as we are born again in Him, He may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he He

reigns in heaven with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## Boxing Day - 26th

Father, today, I'm going to take a few minutes to be perfectly still. I want to experience Jesus being born into the stillness of my heart, not just today, but every day.

# SUNDAY 27th

Generous God, what must you think of the frenzy that we get into, the closer we get to Christmas Day? Do you despair at the extravagance? Shake your head at the greed? Do you weep at the plight of those who will only know poverty or loneliness? We pray that those who are able, will reach out to those for whom Christmas brings nothing but misery. We pray too, that the message of Christmas will bring great joy as we celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the world.

# Monday 28th

Eternal and timeless God, let us feel Your everlasting mercy fall upon us in the morning of this new year. Give us grace to arise with Christ who is our morning light. May we walk by faith and with a willing spirit, seek Your presence, through the blessed Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Tuesday 29th

## Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ the Saviour of the world - he has come! Alleluia, alleluia. To the highest name of all, alleluia. The heavens roar, the angels sing. All glory to our God and King! O night divine forevermore, alleluia Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ the saviour of the world - he has come!

Alleluia, alleluia. To the highest name of all - alleluia! You're the highest name of all. Alleluia!' Words from 'A Christmas Alleluia' by Chris Tomlin

# Wednesday 30th

Jesus, we know You are always with us. Continue Your mercies to us, we pray, that everyday we may acknowledge that You are our Saviour and our mighty deliverer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Thursday 31st

Dear Lord, as we come to the end of a year and the start of the new, we pray for the world that You love, Your coming

to live among us and for the coming return when, in glorious power, You will make all things new. May we in this coming year, live in love and harmony with each other, seeing our Christian family grow closer around the world through peace, worship, and praise of our loving God, Jesus our Saviour and in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

May our God of all grace who called us to His eternal glory in Christ, restore, establish and strengthen us in this new year. All power belongs to Him for ever and ever! Amen.



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The December Prayer Diary has been composed by David & Marilyn Lacey.