

# Prayer Focus

December 2019

THESE PRAYERS WERE WRITTEN BY THE REVD.ARNOLD HARRISON

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## **Sunday 1st**                      **Advent Sunday**

Matthew 24: 36-44 *“But about that day and hour no one knows .....but only the Father”* . We would love to know the future but can't. Give thanks for the one certainty – God's love in the baby we are preparing to greet.

## **Monday 2nd**

Horoscopes remain very popular and are consulted daily. Remember it is not the planets that determine our lives but a God who has come in Jesus.

## **Tuesday 3rd**

The “fake news” of today had its false prophets in Jesus' time. Listen carefully for God's word in today's world where many persuasive voices compete for our attention.

## **Wednesday 4th**

Just as the master trusted his servants with his talents (Matthew 24:46) so we are entrusted with our gifts. Pray that you may discern where and how God wants your gifts to be used.

## **Thursday 5th**

Isaiah invites us to walk in the way of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5) and so be a beacon for those who are seeking a light to guide them in their lives. Pray that you may be that light.

## **Friday 6th**

What a joy and a privilege to be called into God's house (Psalm 122:1). Pray that you will find comfort, assurance and joy there.

## **Saturday 7th**

Paul wanted us to know where the authority lies in our lives – God! (Romans 13:1) Pray we may have the grace to accept and obey.

## **Sunday 8th**                      **Advent 2**

Matthew 3:2 *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*  
John calls on us to prepare for Jesus coming, and repentance is at the heart of that call. Pray for forgiveness and a new beginning.

### Monday 9th

John sets an example (Matthew 3:4) of such asceticism that we cannot hope to emulate his life style. But can we examine our own lives and find better ways of living?

### Tuesday 10th

It took a lot of courage for John to condemn the way of life of his contemporaries. (Matthew 3:7) Can we hear him speaking to us?

### Wednesday 11th

John saw himself unworthy (Matthew 11:11) yet God used him. It is a reminder that God will use whom he chooses and where he chooses and that includes you and me

### Thursday 12th

Isaiah paints the picture of how God wants his creation to behave. (Isaiah 11:6-9). Can we make a start with the way we behave?

### Friday 13th

The Psalmist wants everyone to experience the best of God's world. (Psalm 72:1-4). Give thanks for the world in which you live.

### Saturday 14th

Pray that we can live in harmony with one another (Romans 15:5) and so build the world God intends for us and everyone.

### Sunday 15th      Advent 3

Luke 1:46-56 *"My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my saviour."* Can we find that same joy of expectation as Mary found? Pray to have the same obedience and humility she showed.

### Monday 16th

Both Mary and Elizabeth believed their news, outrageous as it sounded to them (Luke 1:41-42) but by trusting in God it was fulfilled. Pray that we too may dare to trust God in that way?

### Tuesday 17th

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46f) is a wonderful cry of praise and thanksgiving. Can you find words to express the joy which you experience?

### Wednesday 18th

Mary is the supreme example of obedience to God's call. Can we follow her example trusting in God implicitly for everything that we encounter?

### Thursday 19th

Isaiah is told to say to the people “Be strong, do not fear!” (Isaiah 35:4) Can we trust those words from God, especially in those moments when life is hard to bear?

### Friday 20th

God gives help to all who need it. (Psalm 146:8-9) We give thanks for a God who lifts us up in our time of need and sets us in a safe place.

### Saturday 21st

Patience, the gift of waiting upon the Lord (James 5:7), is part of our discipline as Christians. Pray that you may have that gift not least when God does not move as swiftly as you would like.

### Sunday 22nd                      Advent 4

*Matthew 1:18-25 “...an angel appeared to him in a dream and said...”*

So many signs heralding Christ’s birth. We confess we do not always find it easy to read God’s signs. Pray for the sensitivity to see the signs in your life.

### Monday 23rd

Paul talks of “...all God’s beloved...who are called to be saints.” He cannot be serious – who me? Yes you! Draw near to the manger and remember you are indeed one of God’s saints.

### Tuesday 24th                      Christmas Eve

The excitement is palpable. May every child of God stand ready to welcome the Christ Child this Christmas night. Are you ready?

### Wednesday 25th                      Christmas Day

*Luke 1:6,7 “...the time came for her to deliver her firstborn son.... and she laid him in a manger.” Give everlasting thanks for the greatest gift the world has ever received.*

### Thursday 26th                      Boxing Day

It has happened once again. (Titus 2:11) Our hearts have been stirred and our spirits lifted. God has reminded us again what he has done and we are assured that it is true - “Emmanuel” - God *is* with us. Give thanks.

### Friday 27th

Listen to the Psalmist and do as he urges you. (Psalm 96:1) Lift your hearts in praise. Dare to sing a song to the Lord, even if it is only in the quietness of your heart.

## Saturday 28th

The joy we have known is, even now, overshadowed. Storm clouds gather - He is in danger. Even now we sense that this story might not end well. Let us pray for God's grace to see us to our journey's end at the foot of a cross.

## Sunday 29th      **First Sunday after Christmas.**

*Matthew 2:13-15 "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt!"*  
No wonder Jesus had such empathy with the poor and dispossessed, having been a refugee himself. Pray that we can follow his example.

## Monday 30th

Don't ever imagine that Jesus cannot know how you feel. Wait upon him and know he is your comfort and strength.

## Tuesday 31st      **New Years Eve**

We look back with thanks and forward in hope. We sense the passing of time, but are embraced by the eternal God, who holds us in his everlasting arms. Give thanks for a year past and pray for a year to come.

## Wednesday 1st 2020      **New Years Day**

Have you begun the Year as you mean to go on? Is there a prayer on your lips and joy in your heart?

## Thursday 2nd

The Psalmist cries out with unending praise. He calls on us to join the celebration. Can you find words of praise to be part of that chorus?

## Friday 3rd

Jesus calls us his brothers and sister and as such stands alongside us in our laughter and tears, our joys and sorrows. (Hebrews 2:17) Give thanks that Jesus calls you into that unique relationship.

## Saturday 4th

God calls upon you to recount to others what God has done for you. (Isaiah 63:7) Do not fail in your duty. Pray for the gifts you need to fulfil that calling.

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# Altrincham United Reformed Church

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