

Readings and Prayers for week of January 10th

Notices

Happy New year to you all. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

A huge Thank you to all who have supported our church through gifts of time, effort and finance over the past year. By God's grace we will hopefully come through this wave of Omicron (and that it will be the final one) and then head into a more normal time of gathering together as God's people.

Bible in a Year

For those with internet access, there is a bible reading plan with short introductory videos each day at [The Bible in a Year | Devotional Reading Plan | YouVersion Bible](#)

For those without the internet, I will put the plan as the daily readings here. Clearly starting 10 days late, but better late than never!

Resting on God

O GOD MOST HIGH, MOST GLORIOUS,
The thought of thine infinite serenity cheers me,
For I am toiling and moiling, troubled and distressed,
but thou art for ever at perfect peace.
Thy designs cause thee no fear or care of unfulfilment,
they stand fast as the eternal hills.
Thy power knows no bond, thy goodness no stint.
Thou bringest order out of confusion, and my defeats are thy victories:
The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
I come to thee as a sinner with cares and sorrows,
to leave every concern entirely to thee,
every sin calling for Christ's precious blood;
Revive deep spirituality in my heart;
Let me live near to the great Shepherd,
hear his voice, know its tones, follow its calls.
Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in the truth,
from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit.
Give me intenser faith in the eternal verities,
burning into me by experience the things I know;
Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel,
that I may bear its reproach, vindicate it,
see Jesus as its essence, know in it the power of the Spirit.
Lord, help me, for I am often lukewarm and chill;
unbelief mars my confidence,
sin makes me forget thee.
Let the weeds that grow in my soul be cut at their roots;
Grant me to know that I truly live only when I live to thee,
that all else is trifling.
Thy presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong and happy.
Abide in me, gracious God.

Monday

Read – Genesis 1-3

Think : While it is a familiar passage to most, focus on the poetry and imagery. What stands out? How do days 1-3 match with days 4-6? What is the primary role of humanity? What might it mean 'to subdue the earth' Christianly? What do you think is the heart of the problem for humanity? What hope is left at the end of the story?

Praise God that he created everything good. Pray that we would all steward and manage the resources of the earth wisely rather than consuming everything. Give thanks there is hope.

Pray for those who are struggling under the weight of sin and its curse on creation.

Pray for the year ahead, that as a church we would achieve amazing things under Christ.

Pray for our building project that we feel God call us to undertake. Pray for the task of fundraising that we would get many more applications in soon and have many great successes. Pray we would soon hit the second big benchmark of 50% very soon.

Give thanks for the Christmas events and those who enabled them. Pray that many would be ever more interested in the gospel and that many would come to faith this year.

Pray for 'cuppa cake and company' this morning. Give thank for the team that work faithfully. Pray that others join the team when needed. Pray for guidance as we plan.

Pray for North Korea. Open Doors' writes, "Our vision for 2022 is to expand our work and reach more North Koreans with practical and spiritual support," says Brother Simon*, who runs Open Doors' ministry to North Korean believers. "We are hoping to find more workers who will dedicate themselves to this ministry." Pray that this vision becomes a reality."

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, the church is your beloved bride and we look to you to lead your people. We ask that your word would be clearly and faithfully proclaimed in your church and that, through it, we would be challenged, encouraged and changed. We pray that our leaders would be protected from temptation, complacency and idolatry. We ask that your church would be filled with joy as we sing your praises as we gather together. Fill our prayers with confidence in your mighty power and fill your people with your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Tuesday

Read – Genesis 4-7

Think : Why do you think Cain's offering was not accepted? How is it compared with Abel's? What does this teach you about giving God your 'best', rather than merely 'some'? How does Cain respond? How do his actions point to the pattern in humanity since? What are the ultimate consequences by the time of Noah. How is humanity described (6v5)?

Praise God that he is holy and does not ignore evil and sin. Give thanks that he also rescues.

Pray for those who are having to deal with the consequences of murder and other serious crime

Pray for those who look after animals, whether farmers, breeders, vets, pet owners, etc. Pray for the RSPCA and those having to deal with animal cruelty or unfit living standards.

Pray for the unity of the church to be a reality on earth as it is in heaven. As you pray, ask God to show you who in your church needs you to love them.

Pray for those who are struggling with serious ill health and physical ailments.

Pray for those working in places where many are off sick or isolating, especially nurses. Pray for hospitals that are very busy, but give thanks that Omicron is milder and fewer are in ICU.

Pray for Bishop Paul and those in leadership, to guide this diocese with wisdom.

Pray: Father, it wasn't with bad intentions initially that Christmas celebrations grew way beyond Who and have now made us weary. Renew in our hearts the wonder and awe of the miracles of the Gift of Christmas. Not only us, Lord, but let our new found wonder spread to our families and our friends. Let us come together to celebrate You and leave behind the fuss. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Wednesday

Read – Genesis 8-11

Think : Why do you think god makes his covenant with Noah? What do you think of when you see a rainbow? Why is it so important that we remember God's promises? What happens to the people at that time? How does Noah's son sin? What does this lead to by chapter 11? What is God's response to humanity's desire for autonomy from God? What does this tell you about us and our nation?

Praise God that he makes promises and always keeps them. Praise him that he rescues us.

Pray for those suffering from abuse and sexual assault. Pray for the way society both abhors such things yet advertisers often utilise sex to promote products and ideas.

Pray for the world, that we would work together for good, but not do so outside of God.

Pray that you would trust that the Lord, in His sovereignty, really is working for the good of all who love him, even when we cannot understand how or why. Pray that through difficulties and suffering, we would see growth and fruit as we stand fast in Jesus.

Pray for our Wednesday service. Give thanks for answered prayers.

Pray for those in the church family who are struggling with isolation and loneliness. Pray for the lunch club today and the team cooking

Pray for the work of Washington Community Food Project.

Pray for young people back in school, especially older children expected to wear masks for 5-6 hours in class each day. Pray for schools, that staff would cope with many absent.

Pray for our new annexe project, especially grant applications that have gone in get a good response and Anna as she prepares more. Give thanks for answered prayer with grants given. Pray for the applications going to William Leech, the Tudor Trust and a meeting with the Lottery Community Fund representative. Pray for trustees at Laing, Catherine Cookson foundation, Bernard Sunley Foundation and Clothworkers as they consider our applications.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you are the resurrection and the life, death holds no power over you. In your name, you have gathered your people to form the church. Your life

and love are seen in the life and love of Christians within that church. May your church be like a city on a hill, shining your light into the darkness of the world. Neither death or life, angels or rulers, things present or future, height or depth, or anything else in all creation, will be able to separate your people from your love. Through your mighty name, Amen.

Thursday

Read – Genesis 12-15

Think: What promises did God make to Abram (chapters 12 & 15)? Why? How does Abram respond to this promise? How does the story highlight that Abram is far from perfect? What is different about King Melchizedek compared with the other kings? How does Abram respond to him differently? Why do you think he will not take from the kings he has rescued? How does all this challenge your view to wealth?

Praise God that does not choose us because we are better than others, but that he credits righteousness on those who listen and respond by faith.

Pray for the universal church, God's people everywhere, that it really does number more than could be sensibly counted. Pray it would grow more and remain faithful.

Pray for the continued life of our Church and for its flourishing. Pray for those new to the church. Pray for more to volunteers to help in our various activities and especially as we consider our afterschool children's work.

Ask God to guide this Church and reveal to us where our next steps will be in 2022. Pray about what used to be Monday Club as we think about our work with young people.

Pray for those who are lonely or cut off. Pray more would benefit from our groups/activities.

Pray for those who are fearful and concerned about COVID. Praise God for answered prayers that 'Omicron' variant has turned out to be milder and not fully evade the vaccines.

Pray for the vaccine roll out globally. Thank God that we are so fortunate to live in a country where vaccines are freely available.

Pray for the mum's group and the youth group today. Pray for the bible study groups.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that you are a Good Father who gives us good gifts. Thank you for the gift of the church, a community of your children that you have gathered together to worship, serve, pray and love. Give us strength to live as ambassadors for you in the world. Lord, bless your church and keep us pure, make your face shine upon us. Turn your face towards us and give us peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Friday

Read – Genesis 16-18

Think: How do Abram and Sarai fail to trust God? What are the consequences? What Does the Lord re-promise Abraham? Why does Abraham doubt? What is to be the sign of this covenant? How does this point to the promises of Jesus? What do we learn about both god's mercy and his wrath from the story of Sodom? How does this help us understand the fact that the world is far from perfect?

Praise God that he remains faithful even when his people do not. Praise him that he is both just and merciful.

Pray that you would begin to understand the consequences of sin and while disasters are often not linked to certain sins, they point to us living in a fallen world in need of rescue.

Pray that God would show mercy on his church despite the fact some church leaders and congregations are far from Him in what they teach and how they live.

Pray for those who are fearing death, that they would look to the resurrection hope.

Pray for Open Doors. Praise God that the entire New Testament has now been recorded in the dialects of three Buddhist ethnic minorities. Pray for continued unity and safety for the team as they embark on an audio recording of the Old Testament in these dialects.

Pray for those struggling with heating bills. Pray for wisdom for government as with limited finances they try to provide everything that is needed.

Pray for young leaders to emerge to help lead, pray, read and preach in our church family and that others would join. Pray our discipleship would be faithful and effective.

Pray for Lorraine working in the office and Jo-Anne helping and serving.

Pray: King of Kings, Lord of Lords, thank you that you are great and abundant in power, your understanding is beyond measure. In your wisdom, you have created the church, described as Christ's body. May we work together as members of one body, using the gifts and abilities you have given us to faithfully love and serve one another. Would we find our strength from Jesus, the head of the body. May the Lord make us increase and abound in love for each other. May you establish our hearts as blameless in holiness before you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Saturday

Read –Genesis 19-21

Think : What is the heart of the problem in Sodom and Gomorrah? How are God's promises fulfilled? How is Abraham blessed by Abimelek? Why? How is God's covenant promise to Abraham seen to have begun? What are the consequences of their sin with regard to Hagar? What do these chapters teach you about God? How do they point to Jesus?

Praise God that God uses unconventional sources to bless his people.

Pray for those mothers who have had to flee from abusive relationships or are living without the support they need. Pray for Wearside women in need and their work.

Pray for those who are intent on evil, that they would be restrained. Pray for justice in UK.

Pray that you would have the heart to serve, even when it feels hard.

Pray for our evangelism and online presence, that many more would utilise this.

Pray for grace amongst church family to abound. Pray for unity and love in the gospel and to avoid disputes about unimportant and secondary issues. Thank god for the unity we have.

Pray for the environment and those installing eco friendly power generation. Pray for the UK, that we would become less reliant on energy imports and fossil fuels yet enable bills to fall for those struggling to pay them.

Pray for China as the Winter Olympics takes place. Pray that truth about the way they treat minorities and Christians would become unavoidably visible to all.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you know my every need. Your word says that the church is your bride. Your people have been washed clean and purified by your blood. Your people have been clothed in your righteousness. You love the church, you died for the church, you pray for the church, you sustain the church. Hear my prayer and fill your people with the knowledge and experience of your love. You are the God of endurance and encouragement. Help us to live in harmony with one another, that together we may with one voice glorify you. In your powerful name, Amen.

Sunday

Read – Genesis 22-24

Think: How is Abraham Tested? How does this point to God the Father and Jesus his son? What is the key difference? How does God provide for Abraham? What promises does he make the household servant make? Why do you think this matters? Who does Isaac marry? How does this story show the sovereignty of God even in these things?

Praise God that He is sovereign over all situations.

Pray for wisdom for those longing to find love, especially Christians tempted to compromise their faith and godliness to find an unbelieving partner.

Pray that we would not be ashamed of proclaiming the gospel as truth. Pray that we would see much fruit and renewal of our church through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that we would be ever more thankful. Pray that we would be better at hospitality and welcome. Pray that we would all be bold in our evangelism and see much fruit.

Pray for our Sunday services today. Pray for any having to isolate.

Pray for encouragements and good health for many through 2022 after a difficult year for us

Pray for renewal of the church of England and for new leaders to be raised up to serve at St George's Pray for an extra church warden and verger to help when busy.

Pray for refugees, particularly those coming from war zones.

Pray for our children's leaders. Pray for our service pattern as we consider the 8am service restarting and whether/how we change the 10am and 4pm if that happens.

Give thanks to God for anyone who is willing to sacrifice their time to serve in the church and work towards furthering God's kingdom. Pray for those who lead services/preach, etc.

Pray: Mighty God, thank you that you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Jesus said that he would build the church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. Lord, fill your church with the security that comes from knowing we are protected by you. Fill us, too, with boldness to reach others. You are able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us. To you be glory throughout all generations, forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.