

## A Time of Prayer Together: 'IMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US' (Nov-Jan)

### Opening Words

Great and wonderful are the things  
the Lord our God has done for us.  
The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

### Prayer

God of all glory,  
you brought the universe into existence,  
and raised up witnesses  
to your greatness and love.  
We praise and adore you.  
Grant that by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
we may worship and serve you,  
and praise your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The words of a hymn (by Charles Wesley)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth, thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### *A Bible reading (or two), and we listen to God's word in our hearts...*

*See the list of Bible passages over the page.*

### *Collect (or alternative prayers over the page)*

Almighty God,  
you sent your Son Jesus Christ  
to be the light of the world.  
Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us,  
and bring us to eternal light and joy;  
through the power of him  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### We bring our prayers to God

#### *You might like to pray for...*

*God's church, as we minister to those in need and  
share the love and hope of Jesus Christ;*  
*The homeless, and those for whom the winter  
months will be especially cruel;*  
*Those who are bereaved or separated from loved  
ones, especially in the Christmas season;*  
*Our NHS, emergency services, care homes, and all  
who work or volunteer to serve our communities;*  
*Those suffering through illness, loneliness,  
isolation, depression, anxiety or dementia;*  
*Refugees, asylum seekers, and those living in  
poverty, famine and war around the world.*  
*The leaders of the world and our government;*  
*Schools, parents and teachers and all who work in  
education, and the protection of all our children;*  
*All who are now unemployed or in financial  
hardship because of the current crisis;*  
*The natural world, and all God's creation;*

### 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

### The words of a hymn (by Isaac Watts)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing...

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love...

### Closing Words

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.  
We go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

## Suggested Bible Readings:

**From the Lectionary:** (These will be read by Christians of many churches around the world...)

### Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

- John chapter 15: verses 9-17
- Psalm 46
- Revelation chapter 22: verses 1-5

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November

- Matthew chapter 25: verses 14-30
- Psalm 123
- 1 Thessalonians chapter 5: verses 1-11

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Christ the King

- Matthew chapter 25: verses 31-46
- Psalm 100
- Ephesians chapter 1: verses 15-23

### Advent Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

- Mark chapter 13: 24-37
- Psalm 80
- 1 Corinthians chapter 1: 1-9

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 6<sup>th</sup> December

- Mark 1: 1-8
- Psalm 85
- Isaiah 40: 1-11

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 13<sup>th</sup> December

- John 1: 1-28
- Luke 1: 46-55 (The Magnificat)
- 1 Thessalonians 5: verses 12-28

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 20<sup>th</sup> December

- Luke 1: verses 26-55
- Psalm 113
- Isaiah 9: 2-7

### Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

- Luke 2: 1-20
- John 1: 1-14
- Hebrews 1: 1-4
- Psalm 97

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 27<sup>th</sup> December

- Luke 2: 22-40
- Galatians 4: 4-7

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

- Ephesians 1: 3-14
- Matthew 2: 13-23
- John 1: 1-18

### Epiphany Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- Isaiah 60: 1-6
- Matthew 2: 1-12

### **Collects / Prayers of the church for Advent and Christmas (from Methodist Worship Book):**

God of all time and space,  
who are we, that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of  
your word, and move us by your Spirit  
to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is  
certain, whose day draws ever near,  
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

God of light and hope, of stars and surprises:  
open our eyes to your glory  
and our hearts to your presence,  
that we may respond with joy to the angel song;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Radiant God, in Jesus Christ your light shines  
in our darkness, giving joy in our sorrow  
and revealing your presence in our loneliness.  
Fill our hearts with your light  
that in the darkness of this world  
our lives may shine with your eternal  
splendour;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Times when we might all like to pause (wherever we are) to pray together:**

Sundays at 10.30am – 11.00am

Sundays at 5.00pm – 5.30pm

Fridays at 12noon – 12.30pm

If you have access to the internet,  
please visit our website:

[www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk)