

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS

## DECEMBER 2019

**SUNDAY December 1st: Psalm 139:1-12**

At the beginning of this Advent season, give thanks that our God knows each one of us inside out. Pray for those today who will come to our Service of Remembrance, asking that they may find God's peace and healing presence in the quietness.

**Monday December 2nd: Isaiah 40:1-11**

The prophets faithfully proclaimed the coming of the Lord to save his people. Pray today for the church across the world as it prepares to share the good news of the Gospel again this Christmas.

**Tuesday December 3rd: Luke 1:5-25**

Elizabeth and Zechariah were faithful servants of God. Give thanks for the faithful witness of folk in your congregation down the years and pray for all your Advent and Christmas preparations that they may be a witness of God's love to this community.

**Wednesday December 4th: Isaiah 7:10-17**

God gave Ahaz a sign, a promise of things to come through Isaiah. In this Advent time of preparation, pray that we may take the time to reflect on God's word and the ability to discern His will

**Thursday December 5th: Luke 1:26-56**

Mary was a young, unmarried woman in an unenviable position. Pray for all those at this time of year who find themselves in a place they would prefer not to be – the homeless, the lonely, and the sick.

**Friday December 6th: 1 Samuel 2:1-11**

Hannah's song of praise to the Lord, many years earlier, is like that of Mary. Thank God for their examples of faith and trust against all odds.

**Saturday December 7th: Mark 13:32-37**

Advent is a time when children count the number of sleeps until Christmas and we often find ourselves looking ahead and planning for future events. Pray that we may be watchful so that we don't miss what is going on around us.

**SUNDAY December 8th: Psalm 130**

The psalmist recognises the forgiveness of the Lord, waits for and puts his hope in Him. As we move through Advent, pray that you will experience the joy of the Lord's forgiveness and find new hope for today and tomorrow.

**Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>: Jeremiah 33:12-16**

Give thanks that the Lord always keeps his promises and pray for the courage to trust him more.

**Tuesday December 10th: Matthew 1:1-17**

The Jewish people put great emphasis on the family line. As the preparations for this Christmas time intensify, pray for families and the material pressures that this time of year brings.

**Wednesday December 11th: John 8:12-30**

Give thanks for all the volunteers who are preparing for Nativity plays and other Christmas related activities. May the children who are part of these groups experience the wonder and the joy of Advent and Christmas.

**Thursday December 12th: 1 Peter 2**

As people vote in today's General Election, pray for a greater understanding of our role and responsibilities to society and our world.

**Friday December 13th: Ephesians 2**

As the results of yesterday unfold, pray for a spirit of reconciliation between those with differing views and a spirit of cooperation amongst the political parties.

**Saturday December 14th: Matthew 25:1-13**

Some of the virgins were distracted whilst waiting for the bridegroom. As we wait in this season of Advent pray that we may not be distracted by the busyness of the trappings of Christmas, including all the church activities, but may spend time reflecting on the impact of the coming of the Son of God to earth.

**SUNDAY December 15th: Isaiah 40:21-31**

In many churches in our Presbytery, gifts will be given for distribution in local communities. Give thanks for the wonderful generosity of people at this time of year, for the charities who will distribute them and pray for those who will receive them, that the gifts may encourage them and help them to feel loved and valued.

**Monday December 16th: Isaiah 11:1-10**

The Messiah described by Isaiah is strong but uses his power for peace. Pray for peace in troubled parts of the world this Advent season – for a renewed sense of the futility of war and an increased willingness to talk to one another.

**Tuesday December 17th: Matthew 1:18-24**

Joseph, like Mary was placed in a difficult position, yet remained faithful to the angel. Pray for a willingness to be open, to listen and be prepared to accept the unlikely or unknown this season.

**Wednesday December 18th: Luke 1:57-80**

The birth of John the Baptist was the occasion for great joy. Pray for all those who are expecting the birth of a child this season and those for whom this time of year magnifies the sorrow endured by the loss of a child.

**Thursday December 19th: Jeremiah 23:1-8**

The religious leaders in the Old Testament and during Jesus' ministry were rejected because they had not shepherded the flock. Pray for all church leaders as they continually seek to discern the way forward for God's mission in the world. Pray particularly for the Church of Scotland in this period of reform.

**Friday December 20th: Galatians 4:1-7**

Jesus came into the world to save sinners and to restore our ability to have a relationship with our God. Pray for those who are feel the pressured of this time of year financially and spend some time reflecting on this amazing gift, available to all freely.

**Saturday December 21st: Micah 7:7-20**

The world of the prophet Micah was troubled and full of fear and wrongdoing. Yet he waited for the Lord with hope. Pray for the strength to remain hopeful in our world today, to see the good things that take place every day.

**SUNDAY December 22nd: Psalm 122**

Many people will be attending church nativity services today. Pray for all church and young church leaders that the message they convey will reflect the incredible love of God sending his Son to earth in such humble beginnings.

**Monday December 23rd: Micah 5:1-5**

Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth, is a flashpoint area in Israel with checkpoints and the separation wall surrounding it badly affecting mobility and the local economy. Pray for all those who, like the Messiah, are born into places of poverty, as refugees, without a home.

**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>: Luke 2:1-7**

Give thanks for all those hostels and shelters who tonight, like the innkeeper, will give shelter to those in need and those who will be working over the Christmas season, the emergency services and healthcare professionals. Pray too for all those who will attend Christmas services, that they may know God's loving presence.

**Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>: John 1:1-14**

Alleluia, Christ is born. Give thanks for the joy of the Saviour's birth.

**Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>: Luke 2:8-14**

Give thanks for all those who share the good news of Jesus with others – church leaders, youth leaders, elders and volunteers. Pray that the seeds planted may continue to be watered and to grow as time passes.

**Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>: Luke 2:15-20**

The shepherds were ordinary folk who had the privilege of meeting their Saviour. Thank God for the opportunity and freedom members of churches have across the land to worship every week.

**Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>: Luke 2:22-24**

Mary and Joseph fulfilled all their religious duties for their son presenting him at the temple. Give thanks for all those this year who have been baptised at Wellesley, praying that they will continue to be a part of the church family.

**SUNDAY December 29<sup>th</sup>: Luke 2:25-38**

Simeon and Anna worshipped faithfully, following the Lord. Pray for patience in our walk with God, that we may have a greater understanding of what it means to wait for his perfect timing.

**Monday December 30<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 100**

As 2019 draws to a close, thank God for all his blessings over the past year and pray for his wisdom and guidance as we look ahead to 2020.

**Tuesday December 31st: Isaiah 6**

It can be easy to feel that we aren't good enough to serve God like Isaiah. But God doesn't see it that way. Today is perhaps an appropriate day, at the end of an old year, to renew our commitment to serve and follow our God.