



# WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH EPWORTH



This Order of Worship for Morning Prayer is set up to be used alongside the Methodist Church's Prayer Handbook, but can be used alongside any other published resources.

Most of the prayers are the Christmas prayers from the Methodist Worship Book



You will need also

- A Bible for the reading for the day

- Singing the Faith for the hymn for the day

- The Methodist Prayer Handbook as a resource for prayers for the Church in the prayers of intercession.

The commentary on the reading is printed out at the end of these prayers.

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets on a Wednesday morning at 7.45, you can log in from home.

**These prayers are for Wednesdays Dec 28 2022 to 11 January 2023 using the prayers in the MWB for Christmas and Epiphany**

## PRAYERS OF GREETING

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.

*Sharing the peace*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

In the silence and the stillness let us open our hearts to God,  
That we may be prepared for his coming as Light and Word, as bread  
and wine.

## OPENING PRAYERS

### Prayer of thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, it is our joy and delight, our reason for being, to offer you  
thanks and praise.

All your actions show wisdom and love.

Through your Word you spoke creation into existence and made us in  
your image and likeness.

When we disobeyed you and drew away from you, you did not leave  
us in darkness but sent your Son, the Word made flesh, to be the light  
of the world.

Emptying himself of all but love, he was born of Mary shared our  
human nature and died on the cross.

Yet you have raised him from death to eternal life; and through him  
you have sent your holy and  
life-giving Spirit.

Ever-living God, whose glory was revealed in the Word made flesh,  
may we, who have seen such splendour in the coming of your Son, be  
true witnesses to your self-giving love in the world  
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.**

## Prayers of Confession, absolution and renewal of commitment

Loving God,

you have searched us and known us, our blindness, our frailties, our fears and our selfishness.

In sorrow we confess that we have sinned against you and disobeyed your command to love.

Forgive us, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who became like us that we might become like him. **Amen**

*(Pause)*

The true light that gives light to everyone has come into the world.

To all who receive him, he gives power to become children of God.

This is Christ's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading for the day from the Prayer Handbook

**28/12: Matt 2: 13-18**

**4/1: Isaiah 29: 1-13**

**11/1: 1 John 2: 1-11**

**Reflection**

*A commentary on this passage is included at the back of this service and may also be found at the following link <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/>.*

**Hymn for the day**

**28/12 StF 218 Unto us a boy is born**

**4/1 StF 232 Through long years of watchful waiting**

**11/1 StF 370 Breathe on me breath of God**

### PRAYERS FOR THE DAY AND THE WEEK

**Prayer for the day (from prayer handbook)**

**28/12** Love of the heart of Jesus, inflame us; strength of the heart of Jesus, uphold us;

Wisdom of the heart of Jesus, teach us; zeal of the heart of Jesus, consume us,

now and forever. **Amen.**

Saint John Eudes (1601 -1680))

- 4/1** Let us prefer your presence, O God, to all other company.  
Let us praise your name above all other names and let us love your  
will beyond all other desiring; for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**  
*Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)*
- 11/1** You alone do we seek, O God, and you alone do we desire.  
For you alone do we long and for you alone do we hunger and thirst.  
And where you are, is heaven.  
*Sadhu Sundar Singh, Indian mystic and evangelist (written 1922)*

### **Collect for the preceding Sunday**

- 28/12** God of glory, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet  
more wonderfully restored us in your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share in  
the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**
- 4/1** God of beauty and light, with the appearing of your Son you have  
brought us into your new creation  
Renew in us your image and likeness that our lives may reflect your  
glory;  
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.**
- 11/1** Almighty God,  
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world.  
May your people shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be  
known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Unlooked for, Christ comes.

To shepherds, watching their sheep through the long, dark night, he  
comes with the glory of the angels' song and in the humility of the  
manger.

*Silence*

Loving God, we pray for our community . . .

In the midst of our everyday lives, surprise us with glimpses of the  
glorious, humble love at the heart of existence.

Lord, come to your people.  
In your mercy set us free.

Searched for, Christ comes.  
To the wise and powerful, star-led to Bethlehem, seeking a king, he  
comes, child of Mary,  
crowned with meekness, worthy of every gift.

*Silence*

Loving God, we pray for the leaders of the world . . .  
Guide them with your light to the true wisdom of justice and peace,  
of freedom and respect for every human life.  
Lord, come to your people.  
In your mercy set us free.

Longed for, Christ comes.  
To Anna and Simeon, whose days are lived in faithful expectation, he  
comes, a new life to the old,  
a living prophecy of hope.

*Silence*

Loving God, we pray for the Church in all the World . . .  
Unite us by your Spirit, and make us faithful witnesses to the hope we  
have in you.  
Lord, come to your people.  
In your mercy set us free.

Prayed for, Christ comes.  
To men and women, girls and boys, crying out in darkness, pain and  
loneliness, he comes, baptized, at one with us, our Saviour, healer  
and friend.

*Silence*

Loving God, we pray for those whose lives are hard and painful or  
whose existence is sorrowful, bitter or empty . . .  
In their need, may they know your healing touch, reaching out to  
comfort, strengthen and restore.  
Lord, come to your people.  
In your mercy set us free.  
Unlooked for and searched for, longed for and prayed for, loving God,  
you come to us now as you have come to your people in every age.  
We thank you for all who have reflected the light of Christ. Help us to  
follow their example and bring us with them to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYERS**

God of compassion and mercy, listen to our prayer.

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and prepare our hearts and souls to meet him when he comes in glory;

May what we ask in Jesus Christ your Son be done according to his word, who said: 'Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you'.

To you merciful God, through your Son in the life giving Spirit, be glory and praise forever. Amen

## **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.**

## **Blessing and commitment**

May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill our lives with his light and joy and peace.

May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, remain with us always. **Amen.**

Lord our God

As with all creation we offer you the life of this new day,

Give us grace to love and serve you to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**COMMENTARY** This is the link by which you can get the notes. They are not usually posted until the a week before (ie for 21 Dec, they are not likely to be there before 14 Dec)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/>.