

# Prayer Time

DECEMBER 2023



***"Our God knows our human condition from the inside. He did not shout good advice from a safe distance. He was embroiled in the muck, the suffering, the confusion and misunderstanding....Christ's life says that God cared. God still cares, that babies matter, that family life matters, that homes matter, that people matter, that decent living matters, that relationships matter, and that our existence matters — matters so much that God glorified it by becoming a human baby."***

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***Bishop Desmond Tutu***

### **PERSONAL PRAYER FOCUS:**

As we celebrate the amazing wonder that the God, who rules the universe, sought personal connection with us by becoming like us, by coming among us.

Seek moments in these full,  
festive days to connect with God.

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Light a candle and visualize the Light of the World,  
penetrating the darkness around and within.

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Take time to read the weekly readings from the Revised Common Lectionary (See back page), or the Nativity accounts in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John.

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Consider (re)connecting with someone over the Holidays;  
offer to pick up a home-bound member for a church service; pray for the people you send Christmas greetings to; extend an invitation to someone you don't normally associate with.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY:**

We pray for Joshua Dau, who was baptized on Dec. 3rd,  
and Hanna & Cody Roorda, being received as members  
on Dec. 10th.

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We pray that the wonder of God's Incarnation may be  
made real through the worship events taking place this  
Advent & Christmas season

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We pray for the visitation volunteers and for the home-  
bound members of our faith community.

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We pray for the German worship group as the last German  
service is held Dec. 10th.

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We pray for families where strained and broken  
relationships contrast with the storybook bliss of popular  
Holiday customs.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:**

We pray for our sister congregation, Dire Gefersa Miserete  
Kristos Church in Adis Ababa, Ethiopia, as they and  
churches around the world celebrate Christ's Birth.

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As war and violence rages on in many places of the world,  
we pray in hope for a realization of the angels' song:  
"Peace on Earth, goodwill to all!"

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We pray for the disadvantaged in our own  
neighbourhoods, seeking ways to share meaningful gifts  
of compassion, especially in this season of commercial  
excess.

## Weekly Readings for Advent & Christmas

from the

### **REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY**

#### **First Advent Sunday:**

Isaiah 64:1-9 / Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1st Corinthians 1:3-9 / Mark 13:24-37

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#### **Second Advent Sunday:**

Isaiah 40:1-11 / Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2nd Peter 3:8-15a / Mark 1:1-8

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#### **Third Advent Sunday:**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 / Psalm 126  
1st Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8, 19-28

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#### **Fourth Advent Sunday:**

2nd Samuel 7:1-11, 16 / Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-55

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#### **Christmas Day:**

Isaiah 62:6-17 / Psalm 97  
Luke 22:1-20 / Hebrew 1:1-4

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#### **New Year's Eve:**

Isaiah 61:0-62:3 / Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:22-40

