

## Morning Prayer 15.12.24

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." *Psalms 130:5*

### Opening Sentences

O Lord open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Song – Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Saviour of the human race  
But the skies were filled  
With the praise of heav'n  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal  
He was lifted on a cruel cross  
He was punished for a world's  
transgressions  
He was suffering to save the lost  
He fights for breath He fights for me  
Losing sinners from the claims of hell  
And with a shout our souls are free  
Death defeated by Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners  
Humble servant in the Father's hands  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit  
Filled with mercy for the broken man  
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again  
I will follow my Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honour  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne  
Interceding for His own beloved  
'Til His Father calls to bring them home  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet  
sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell

### Advent Candle Prayer

Each week in Advent we light a candle to remind us that Jesus brings light and hope into our world. No matter how uncertain or chaotic the world may seem, that light still shines through.

As we light our advent candle

**Light of the world, shine on us.**

As we prepare for Christmas time

**Light of the world, shine on us.**

In this world of pain and darkness

**Light of the world, shine through us.**

To all the people who don't know you,

**Light of the world, shine through us.**

Jesus you are coming again,  
**Light of the world, light the way.**  
In our service here today  
**Light of the world, light the way.**

**Psalm 146: 4-10**

<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.  
<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith for ever;  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Bible reading – Luke 3: 7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Talk**

### **Prayers**

*In our prayers we will pray for the world, the church, our local community, and for those who are in need.*

*At the end of each section, we say:*

Lord in Your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen**

## **News**

### **Conclusion**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Online Giving**

Everything we do in mission and ministry is made possible by the generous support of our church family. We encourage everyone who is a regular member of St Marys to join our planned giving scheme (standing order) as this helps us to plan and budget.

You can now make donations online as a one off or regular gifts, and every penny goes back into enabling our mission and ministry.

Details of how to give online or join the planned giving scheme can be found online @ [www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving](http://www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving)