



PRAYER DURING THE DAY FOR JANUARY 2022

*Text in **bold** may be said by all, if saying it with others. Most of the month is after the Epiphany, yet the 'whoa' continues.*

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

With you, O God, is the well of life **and in your light shall we see light.**

Psalm 36.9

PRAISE

A hymn, song, poem, or freeform praise

I shall miss the stars.

Not that I shall stop looking
as they pattern their wild will each night
across an inchoate sky, but I must see them with
a different awe.
If I trace their flames ascending and descending

relationships and correspondences –
then I deny what they have just revealed.
The sum of their oppositions, juxtapositions, led
me to the end of all sums:
a long journey, cold, dark and uncertain,
toward the ultimate equation.
How can I understand? If I turn back from this,
compelled to seek all answers in the stars,
then this – Who – they have led me to
is not the One they said: they will have lied.

No stars are liars!
My life on their truth!
If they had lied about this
I could never trust their power again.

But I believe they showed the truth,
truth breathing,
truth Whom I have touched with my own hands,

worshipped with my gifts.

If I have bowed, made
obeisance to this final arithmetic,
I cannot ask the future from the stars
without betraying
the One whom they have led me to.

It will be hard not to ask, just once again,
see by mathematical forecast where he will grow,
where go, what kingdom conquer,
what crown wear.
But would it not be going beyond truth
(the obscene reduction ad absurdum)
to lose my faith in truth once, and once for all
revealed in the full dayspring of the sun?

I cannot go back to night.
O Truth, O small and unexpected thing,
You have taken so much from me.
How can I bear wisdom's pain?
But I have been shown: and I have seen.

Yes. I shall miss the stars.

– Madeleine L'Engle *One King's Epiphany*

THE WORD OF GOD

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

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.

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Week 1</i> | <i>Week 2</i> |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday | 1 | 74.1-9 |
| Tuesday | 2 | 74.10-17 |
| Wednesday | 86 | 74.18-23 |
| Thursday | 100 | 138 |
| Friday | 122 | 139 |
| Saturday | 149 | 150 |

READINGS

Monday

A king is as terrifying as a lion's growl. Those who anger him may lose their life. It is honorable to back off from a fight, but fools jump right in. The lazy don't plow during winter; at harvest they look but find nothing. Advice comes from the deep waters of the heart; those with understanding can draw it out. Many people will say that they are loyal, but who can find a reliable person? The righteous live with integrity; happy are their children who come after them.

Proverbs 20.2-6

Tuesday

We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

2 Corinthians 4.5-9

Wednesday

The time came for the Festival of Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple, walking in the covered porch named for Solomon. The Jewish opposition circled around him and asked, "How long will you test our patience? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, but you don't believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you don't believe because you don't belong to my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.

John 10.22-27

Thursday

I will take you from the nations, I will gather you from all the countries, and I will bring you to your own fertile land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed of all your pollution. I will cleanse you of all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your stony heart from your body and replace it with a living one, and I will give you my spirit so that you may walk according to my regulations and carefully observe my case laws. Then you will live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36. 24-28

Friday

In the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

Revelation 1.13-16

Saturday

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit."

RESPONSE

Silence, study, reading, or song. Then these words:

Ice and winter, bless the Lord, sing hymns, and lift God high above all others forever. Frost and snow, bless the Lord, sing hymns, and **lift God high above all others forever.**

Prayer of Azariah 48-9

PRAYERS

Examine your days and feelings and bring to these prayers the joys and concerns of your relationships and realities. Let your prayers be guided by these concerns, and may your heart be led to even more:

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord. That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth, Compassionate Lord meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

That the Church may discover again that unity which is the Father's will, Gracious Lord meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace,

Loving Lord, meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

That the whole creation, groaning in travail, may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God, Redeeming Lord, meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may rest in peace and rise in glory, Comforting Lord, meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way, to the mercy and protection of God. Glorious Lord, meet us in the silence and **hear our prayer.**

One (or more) of the following prayers are said to collect the intentions

O good Jesus, Word of the Father and brightness of his glory, whom angels desire to behold: teach me to do your will that, guided by your Spirit, I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day, where all are one in heart and mind, where there is safety and eternal peace, happiness and delight, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end, **Amen.**

Ever-present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar, that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world. For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

God of watchers in the night, God of lanterns lit: our waiting turns from anxiety to anticipation when what is hoped for feels like a sure thing. May the lamps we raise and the light we cast cut the gloom around us, so that we become a beacon for your brighter day to come, in Christ's holy name we pray. **Amen.**

God of a mother's instinctive compassion; God whose piety is an impulse to kindness: our societies are reflections of ourselves. The brokenness we lament out there in the world mirrors all the fractures within. May your maternal instinct to redeem us, through lessons of repentance and forgiveness, restore the bonds between us, so we can reveal both the hurt and the healing. And then, may a love like her love at our birth begin our new life together through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OTHER COLLECTS AND PRAYERS *(if desired)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said in whatever language is closest to your heart

THE CONCLUSION

With you, O God, is the well of life **and in your light shall we see light.**

*This follows the outline of Prayer During the Day from CoE, Epiphany; working from both the trial and published versions.
Readings are from the CEB or NRSV translations of the Bible.
Prayers adapted from the Anglican Church of Scotland and Corrymeela Community.
Created by Christ Church, Ridley Park in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*