

Sunday 10th January – Baptism of Christ

Prayers written by Yvonne Toms

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized into Christ be faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors of everlasting life with Him. We thank you that you have washed us clean and that you continue to inspire and refresh us to follow Christ more nearly day by day. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our Churches as we live through challenging times and find new ways of meeting in worship. Nourish us with your grace so we may know that you are with us wherever we are, we are part of your living Church – your body on earth - and we are never alone. We thank you for all the people who are part of our Church communities and pray that we may still serve you in all we do.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our community, our country and our world as we continue to face the Coronavirus pandemic and begin a third lockdown. We pray for the sick and all who care for them, for the bereaved, for our health and community services, for families and individuals in isolation or shielding. We pray for all who are trying to keep essential services going including supermarket workers and suppliers. We pray for children at home and those who will still be attending school provision. We pray for all who are missing activities which have been suspended. We pray for all who are in financial difficulties due to the pandemic including businesses, the unemployed and those worried about the future of their jobs and careers and for all struggling to support their families. We pray for those in central and local government and all voluntary and community initiatives: May we all seek to serve those who are suffering, searching continually for actions and strategies which will be for the good of all, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own, look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,

homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief, inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you that you continue to reach out into the life of the world; that in our deepest uncertainty you bring the certainty of your love; in the place of deepest darkness, you bring your light and into our lives you bring your forgiveness and healing. We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. From our own community we pray for Jan Banks, Margaret and Christopher Wilding, Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Gary, Hazel Chapman, Roger Le Page, Andrew and for all known to us alone.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving Father, we thank you that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Whether we live or die we are yours and yours eternally. We pray for those all those who mourn and for those who still miss the companionship and care of loved ones. We pray that as they journey onwards, the assurances of our risen Lord will bring to them new strength and new life. We remember especially today the family and friends of Joyce Innes, Muriel Meredith and Irena Efendieva.

From our Memorial Book, we give thanks for the lives of John Pardey, Margery Nossiter, David Piggott, Colin Fox, Debra Curtis, Phyllis Delaney and Antony Burbidge.

Christ is the morning star who when the night of this world is past, brings his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord you give us the same reassurance of your sustaining love in the past, the present and the future. At the start of this New Year, we give you thanks for the past and have hope for the present and the future.

Lord Jesus be a bright flame before us, A guiding star above us, A smooth path below us, A kindly shepherd behind us Today, tonight and for ever, Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.