

A Prayer for the Sundays of Epiphany

*We are drawn to your feet in worship
Your creation facing its creator
Hearts laid bare by your light
Humbly asking for your mercy.
We come to you as a people in need
of assurance and forgiveness.
We come to you as a people in need
of healing and wholeness.
We come dependent upon your love.
Enfold us in your arms.
Fill us with your Spirit
that we might reflect your light
within this dark world,
speak your Word with boldness
and draw others to your feet.
We ask this through your dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen*



<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/>

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Intermim Rector
The Rev. Beth Wyndham, Associate Rector
The Rev. Don Wilkinson, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Turner Hubby, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Nate Bostian, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Dick Copeland, Assisting Priest

Church Staff

Kathleen Stephens, Parish Administrator
Christina Burk, Parish Secretary
Ryan Becker, Minister of Music
Barry Brake, Contemporary Worship Leader
Kevin Frei, Youth Minister
Cathy Villani, Director of Christian Formation
George Guerra, Sexton

Church & School Business Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

School Staff

Debra Root, Head of School
Robin Rosen, Office Manager

Vestry

Dan Wallace, Senior Warden
Greg Bellos, Junior Warden
John Worthington, Treasurer
Paige Felter, Clerk
Missy Denney, Hospitality & Fellowship
Matt Newman, Newcomers & Communications
Jason Souder, Youth
Leigh Ann Owens, Worship
Jessica Nelson, Christian Formation
Bill Hammett, Senior Adult Ministries
Dana Thompson, Outreach & World Mission
Robin Karstens, School Liaison
Tres Bain, Chancellor

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Pray for: Our weekly intercessions: Give thanks for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, San Antonio; and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Goliad.

Our Parishioners: Billie Fulton, Kathryn Woehler, Travis Kiker, Mike Cain, Jimmie Huckins, Frank Harwi, Ray Parker, Peggy Shearer, Pablo Guajardo, Truman Wheeler, Brandi Woehler, John & Lee Throop, Jake Bain, Maxine Swan, Kate Beebe, Pam Currier, Nancy Priest, Lorraine Rodriguez, Helen Jaeger, Tom Foster, Nan Allen, Alma Benavides-Garcia, Joe Carlson, Christopher Weaver, Nancy Gillard, Dolores Jones, Maggie Gambrel, Bob Schneider, Dr. Charles Stephens, Jerry Cramer, Marlee Green, David Jauer, Aaron Pfeiffer, Carol-Ann Britt, Dick Copeland, Tom Green, Mary Francis, Joan Cornell, George Kelm, Don Clemons, Corey Clemons, Dick Lathrop, Nancy Rybicki, Tammy Lull, Barbara Niemann, John Keith, Henry Sullivan, Jaycee McDonald

Our Armed Forces: Tony Boone, Scott Keegan, David Foster, Kaleob Williams, Joshua Lavender, Joseph Lukefahr, Therese Rosito, Aaron Paseur, Bill Oslin, Spencer & Melissa Smith

Those who have Died: Harold Nasse

Long Term

Barbara Murphy—cousin of Leo Castanon
Eric Gonzales—nephew of Marlee Green
Mark Browne—son of Thelmarie Browne
Stephen Furman—nephew of Sherry Jaeger
Robert Carter—son of Kent & Dee Carter
Elaine Marshall—friend of Beverly Wheeler
Bob Gambrel—father-in-law of Maggie Gambrel
Ron Lane—father of Paige Felter
Karen Lane—friend of Beverly Hamlett
J.R. Souder—father of Jason Souder
Robinson Family—friend of the Crusius family
Aldrich and Bannister families—friends of the Harmon family
Gilbert Douglas—brother-in-law of Tom Foster
Ben Skipper—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
Frank Persyn Jr.—friend of Harris family
Adona Napier—friend of Tom Foster
Jason Decker—friend of Nancy Leming
Kurt Wiechert Jr.—friend of Scott & Nancy Perrin
Karl Wiechert—friend of Scott & Nancy Perrin
Graig Norz—son-in-law of Frank Woolf
Susie Warr—friend of Tom Green
David Foster—son of Tom Foster
Karen Arnold—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
Gil Hooper—son-in-law of John & Carol Keith
Richard Needham—brother of Sue Needham
Nell Craighead—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
Laura Tillbury—friend of Joan Eccles
Gayle French—daughter of Joan Eccles
Taryn French—granddaughter of Joan Eccles
Bob Coffman—friend of the Cady family
Carolyn Andro—family of Bill & Judi Frerichs
Tami & C.J. Peasinger—family of Stephanie Cady
Carolyn Gregg—friend of Jocelyn Harris
Gloria Quiroz—friend of the Harris family
Joe Bodak—friend of Gary Villani
Barbara Naylor—cousin of Bruce Gill
Kyle O'Brien—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
Eric—son of the Lynchs
Finnie Family—friends of Gary & Cathy Villani
Nancy Heinemeier—friend of Sherri Jaeger
Judy—daughter of Eloise Hooper
John Norris—father of Lloyd Norris
Bobby—friend of Sherri Jaeger
Heidi Foreman—mother of Jeff Nelson
Marlys Kubesh—friend of the Harris family

Arthur Hicks—friend of the Harris family
Kathy Jackson—sister of Marlee Green
Celia Carranza—St. Thomas school family
Aaron Brady—St. Thomas school parent
Bob Dalton—son-in-law of Tom Foster
Bonnie Applegate—friend of Helen Lynch
Michelle—friend of Esther Rickey
Rick Farrar—friend of Cady family
Meghan Stapleton—friend of Jennifer Palmer
Andrea Cutting—friend of Woodall family
Jinny, Carole & Freda—cousins of Helen Lynch
Tammy Baird—friend of Tom Foster
John Wachsmuth—brother of Bob Wachsmuth
Holly Hayes—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
Leslie Reed—daughter of the Throops
Kimberly Reed—grandchild of Throops
Wade Gray—son of Lee Throop
Savannah Gray—grandchild of Throops
James Gillis—friend of the Throops
Emily Dietz—friend of the Stephens family
Robert Smart—cousin of the Swain family
Teagan Peoples—friend of Ray family
Pam Kelley—friend of the Stephens
Rebecca Day—friend of the Kelms
Sauder Family—friends of the Thompsons
Jana Greer—daughter of the Hubby's
Mary Ryder—sister of Nancy Perrin
Sandra—friend of Helen Lynch
Vicki Vickers—friend of Helen Lynch

Short Term

Willy Nichols—friend of Gary Villani
Marilyn Connor—niece of Kathleen Stephens
Vickie & Kristen—the Keith's daughter & granddaughter
Grace Lorton—mother of Ron Lorton
Dixie Fletcher—friend of Bruce Gill.
The Fullers—friends of Robyn Harrelson
Larry Brennen—father of David Brennen
Ed Paris—friend of Tom & Marlee Green
John Howe—St. Thomas school parent
Karen Pepper—friend of Sue Needham
Liz Waters—friend of Sue Needham

Devotional readings for each day
Parish prayer concerns, birthdays,
and anniversaries

February 11, 2018—February 17, 2018



Good News Daily

Sunday, February 11

Luke 9:18-27 *Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (v.23 NIV)*

This is the kind of verse that stops me in my tracks. It is a hard saying for me. Peter might have been thinking, "Great! Jesus is the Messiah; the time has come—victory and power are right around the corner." Jesus told him, however, that the divine plan involves sacrifice and service, not power. The disciples had lived with the expectation that the Messiah would be a conquering king who would restore the kingdom. God's plan turned everything upside down—Jesus would suffer, die on a cross, and be raised to life.

If I am honest I have to admit that I often do not deny self, but rely on self. I remember reading once, "Jesus understood that trusting God means non-trust and non-reliance on the security the world offers." The question, "Who do you say I am?" is the sum and substance of making a decision to follow Him as the Lord of my life. The essence of discipleship is humility before God and it begins with denial of self—and that's a challenge for me.

Proverbs 26:1-23; Psalms 148, 149, 150; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Birthdays: Audrey McTighe

Anniversaries: Ed & Pat Zielinski

Monday, February 12

Philippians 2:1-13 *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete, by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. (vv.1-2)*

Many years ago, the Lord laid it on my heart to memorize Paul's Letter to the Philippians. In order not to lose it, I often recite all 107 verses as I'm about my daily tasks, on a road trip to visit my daughter, lying awake in the wee hours of the morning, or with my husband on a train trip into the city. Though Paul's letter was written to the church in Philippi, his words of encouragement and exhortation have spoken to me as an individual many times since I first memorized the letter. When I get off the track of being "like-minded," verses 3 and 4 remind me of my selfishness and need for humility. Paul knew an intimacy with Christ that enabled him to know what it was to "have the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." Paul's entire life found its meaning in Christ. Hiding Philippians in my heart, I am without excuse in knowing how I need to respond to the many circumstances of life within the church and within my daily life.

Birthdays: Mary Jane Watts

Anniversaries:

Tuesday, February 13

John 18:28-38 *"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him." (vv.37-38)*

We have so much deception today in advertising, in manipulation of the truth by the media, and the popular belief that "what is true for one person is not necessarily true for another," that without a standard we have nothing by which to measure truth. The question for today's living, I believe, is not what is truth but is there a source of truth and where do I find it? Thanks be to God that in His grace He has not left us alone to make up our own truths! I am so grateful that He is the source of truth and His Word is our standard of measure. Simply put, God's truth is revealed to us in Jesus (John 14:6) and He has given us the gift of the Spirit of truth to be with us forever (John 14:17). In his Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul urges followers of Christ to "Test everything" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We must not accept the claims of others without question, but test them to see that they are in agreement with God's truth.

Proverbs 30:1-4, 24-33; Psalms 26, 28; Philippians 3:1-11

Birthdays: William Seymour, David Garza, Columba Wilson

Anniversaries:

Wednesday, February 14

Hebrews 12:1-14 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (v.2)*

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." These words from Hebrews offer an excellent place to begin our Lenten journey. I recently heard a person offer advice about the game of golf, specifically how it is often won or lost on the greens. He described how important it is to "fix your eyes" first on the hole and then to "fix your eyes" on the ball until the putter makes contact and the ball is on its way to the "target". Jesus needs to be our "target". He continues to call us into a deeper and more intimate relationship, yet we realize how easy it is to be distracted and to miss the joy he longs to share with us.

We know what's ahead as we begin this season of repentance and reflection. Jesus was willing to endure the cross and become "the author and perfecter" of the faith that makes it possible for us to enter into the throne room of God with the assurance that we have a friend sitting at the right hand of the Father.

Amos 5:6-15; Psalms 95, 32, 143; Luke 18:9-14

Birthdays: Bjoern Landeck

Anniversaries: Kent & Dee Carter, Dan Schantz & Christine Sturm

Thursday, February 15

Habakkuk 3:1-18 *Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (v.18)*

It is easy to take our eyes off the Lord and look at our troubles. The evil acts that led to the collapse of the World Trade Center and the death of so many on September 11, 2001 and the tsunami on December 26, 2004 in Southeast Asia, along with all the recent catastrophes around the world, raise the question for us (and especially for those who continue to suffer), "How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?" (Habakkuk 1:2). Is God not listening to my elderly friend's plea to be free of the daily pain she experiences in her back? As a volunteer at a pregnancy health center, is God not listening to my prayers for women I meet who, even after seeing an ultrasound of their baby, choose to sacrifice their unborn on the altar of selfishness? Just as Habakkuk could not see nor understand all that God was doing, I must rest in the assurance that God is in control of His world and the events of today. My job is to "be joyful in God my Savior."

Psalm 37:1-18; Philippians 3:12-21; John 17:1-8

Birthdays: Lori Backlund, Debbie Smith, Pam Carrier

Anniversaries: Stephen & Laurie Ersch

Friday, February 16

Philippians 4:1-9 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (vv.6-7)*

"I have really exciting news! I'm heading for Ireland in a few days for an 8-day, 690 mile bicycle race with my cycling team!" So began our son's telephone conversation with us. As a mother of two adult children and grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren, I pray daily for the concerns of our family including the Lord's protection. It was only natural then, as soon as we ended our phone conversation with our son, to bow my head in prayer asking the Lord's safe keeping for him and all the other riders participating in the race. I also asked the Lord's protection for our son's wife and two young boys while he was away. I prayed too for my own mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety. Thankfully, I know the One I can run to any time anxious thoughts overtake me. The circumstances hadn't changed—our son was still going to Ireland—but having placed him and his family in our Lord's hands, my anxiety was replaced with His peace. Thanks be to God!

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalms 95, 31; John 17:9-19

Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Saturday, February 17

Philippians 4:10-20 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (v.19)*

A number of years ago I worked with a small, non-profit agency that matched sister families who wanted to share their friendship and material abundance with families of lesser means. As the families got acquainted and their friendship progressed, it was not uncommon for the helper family to get requests for designer clothing, particularly designer jeans. It was often the children in the family who needed jeans, but they wanted designer jeans.

How much of what we buy today is because we want it or because we need it? In the near future, we will be purchasing a new car. I went to the Internet to get as much information as I could about how we should go about buying our new car. Somewhat to my surprise, one of the first recommendations was to assess not what we wanted in a car, but what we needed.

As I look back over my life, I can see how lovingly God has taken care to provide for my needs and, in many cases, wisely spared me from my wants.

Ezekiel 39:21-29; Psalms 30, 32; John 17:20-26

Birthdays: Lisa Nelson, Jean Winbigler, Abigail de Leon

Anniversaries:

by Gail and Jack Potter

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To add names to the Prayer Lists: email cburk@tom1604.org
Please indicate whether the person is a parishioner, whether the need is **long term** (up to 6 months) or **short term** (up to 1 month), and the name of the person making the request.
Requests must be received by Wednesday of the current week to be printed on that week's devotional. All requests received after Wednesday will be reflected the following week.