The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to join us praying wherever you may be every Monday evening at 5:30. We pray for the St. James’ church family, our community and for the world, using the Book of Common Prayer, the New Zealand Prayer Book, Forward Movement Daily Readings, or other resources. We pray through the St. James’ prayer list, found through a link in the weekly email newsletter and at [www.stjamesaustin.org](http://www.stjamesaustin.org) under the Serve tab, Pastoral Care Ministries.

**Evening Prayer** *(BCP and A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**Monday, December 9, 2024** *(Week of Second Sunday in Advent)*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see   
it together.    *Isaiah 40:5*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,

and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

Loving God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in  
eternal life. *Amen.*

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as   
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

**O Gracious Light     *Phos hilaron***

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!   
  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.   
  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

**Psalm 15** Domine, quis habitabit?  
  
1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?  
  
2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.  
  
3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.  
  
4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.  
  
5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.  
  
6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.  
  
7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## Luke 21:20-28

20 ‘When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; 22for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfilment of all that is written. 23Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; 24they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Song of Mary**    Magnificat

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
    for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.   
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
    the Almighty has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his Name.   
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
    in every generation.   
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
    he has scattered the proud in their conceit.   
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
    and has lifted up the lowly.   
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
    and the rich he has sent away empty.   
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
    for he has remembered his promise of mercy,   
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
    to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

*Let us pray.*

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples

of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. *Amen*

**Prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings**

***Second Sunday of Advent***

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to  
preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our  
Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Peace Among the Nations  
  
Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the  
world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among  
them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they  
may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*For the Human Family*  
  
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us  
through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole  
human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which  
infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us;  
unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and  
confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in  
your good time, all nations and races may serve you in  
harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. *Amen.*

*In the Evening*  
  
O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows  
lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is  
hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest,  
and peace at the last. *Amen.*

**Prayers of the People** *2 Advent, Year C*

*Presider: Gracious and loving God, your prophets sing the Advent call to prepare the way; hear our prayers, for the whole human family: May your ways may be made straight, the valleys filled, the mountains lowered, the crooked straightened, and the rough places smoothed, that all humanity shall see your salvation, as we pray: Let the dawn from on high break upon us; to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Litanist: Holy One, you have set your Church free through our mighty Savior Jesus Christ that we might worship you without fear, holy and righteous in your sight all the days of our life: Bring to completion the good work you have begun among us.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace**.

Eternal One, through your prophets you speak your word to rulers and governors: Grant them your wisdom that they may lead us with joy in the light of your glory, with the mercy and righteousness that comes from you.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace**.

Compassionate One, hear the voice of all who cry out in the wilderness – those who suffer from violence or oppression; the poor and discouraged; and all who long for the promise of new life – comfort everyone with your compassion and love.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Loving One, you visit this community with your power and compassion: Let everyone among us take off the garment of sorrow and affliction and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace**.

Healing One, you anoint our ministries with the compassion of Jesus Christ that we may share God's grace with all for whom we pray: Hear our intercessions on behalf of \_\_\_.

* Those on our prayer list and others we name, silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.
* Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe; our Diocesan bishops Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai; our clergy (Eileen, George, Robby, and Jim, and our curate Addison) and all those who work at and for St. James’, including lay people, volunteers and Vestry members (Simone Talma Flowers, Clint Dawson, John May, Margaret Shaw, Harrison Eppright, Theresa Garcia, Jill LaCour, Chris Prindle, Jeff Cox, Stephanie Dodoo, Jennifer Graf, Rudy Green).
* We pray for our City Council members and Mayor Kirk Watson; City Manager, T.C. Broadnax; Chief of Police, Lisa Davis; Fire Chief, Joel Baker; Travis County Judge, Andy Brown; and for all other city and county officials.
* We pray for the governor and other members of the executive branch of state government.
* We pray for senators and representatives in the state legislature and in Congress.
* We pray for our Supreme Court Justices and for all federal, state, and local judges throughout the country.
* We pray for our president Joe and our vice president Kamala, give them strength, wisdom, and courage as they lead our country.
* We pray that you would touch the hearts of those who can make decisions and pass laws to protect the people of our state and country against gun violence.
* We pray protection for the children of this country and around the world, especially those in harm’s way.
* We pray for “hot spots” around the world, esp in Ukraine & Russia, Israel, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Lebanon, the Pacific area around China and Taiwan, Nicaragua, Sudan & South Sudan, Haiti, Slovakia, Ethiopia, Venezuela, and every place where oppression and violence has disrupted or threatened peace.
* We pray for people in communities in our cities, state, and nation where the violent loss of lives has caused grief, pain, frustration, anger and fear.
* We pray for those suffering from natural disasters in this country and around the world.
* We pray for Scott Madison in his journey to priesthood.
* We pray for the peaceful transfer of power in January.

Accept the joy of our thanksgiving for the many blessings that come from your tender compassion, especially\_\_\_.

* Our family and friends, for healing and restoration to health and wholeness.
* The work of our former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
* Welcome Table and all the many ministries of St. James’ Episcopal Church
* Our new Music Minister for the 10:30 a.m. service, Rick Gabrillo.
* Those advocating and working for reasonable gun control laws.
* Health care workers in medical practices, clinics, and hospitals.
* Our schools: those who teach and those who learn, those who keep everything running and the people safe.
* We give thanks for the faculty and staff at Norman-Sims Elementary School and especially for Karla and Principal Patrick Salinas and his staff, and for the students and their families.
* We give thanks for faculty, staff, and students at Huston Tillotson University and for the work of our curate Addison as Chaplain.
* We give thanks for our seminarians from SSW: Peter, Angel, and Ari.

Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, as we remember those who have died \_\_\_.

In the day of Christ may they be pure and blameless having produced a harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace**.

*Presider: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set us free: Give us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins, that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight, until we come into the day of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for evermore.* **Amen.**

**A Night Prayer for Advent**

Presider Lord, it is night.

**People The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the Presence of God.***Silence*

*Silence*

Presider It is night after a long day.

**People What has been done has been done;**

**what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

*Silence*

Presider The night is dark.

**People Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our lives rest in you.**

*Silence*

Presider The night is quiet.

**People Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,**

**all who are dear to us,**

**and all who have no peace.**

*Silence*

Presider The night heralds the dawn.

**People Let us look expectantly to a new day,**

**new joys, new possibilities.   
In your name we pray. Amen.**

**Blessing**

May you be happy.

May you be healthy.

May you be safe.

May you live with ease.

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

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in  
believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*  
*Romans 15:13*