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, March 3, 2025** *(Week of the Last Sunday after the Epiphany)*

(Readings are for *John and Charles Wesley, Renewers of the Church, 3 March 1791*)

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| Leader | Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** |

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light   
around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O   
Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to   
you are both alike.    *Psalm 139:10-11*

Let us pray together:  
  
Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as   
daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we   
implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with   
the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts   
the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our   
Lord. *Amen.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

All:

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.*

Leader:

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.

**A reading**: *Brothers John and Charles Wesley, Renewers of the Church*

Although John Wesley found it natural to approach the Gospel with habits of thought formed by a classical education, he was quick to recognize the value of other approaches. The early Methodist meetings were often led by lay preachers with very limited education. On one occasion, such a preacher took as his text Luke 19:21, "Lord, I feared thee, because thou art an austere man." Not knowing the word "austere," he thought that the text spoke of "an oyster man." He spoke about the work of those who retrieve oysters from the sea-bed. The diver plunges down from the surface, cut off from his natural environment, into bone-chilling water. He gropes in the dark, cutting his hands on the sharp edges of the shells. Now he has the oyster, and kicks back up to the surface, up to the warmth and light and air, clutching in his torn and bleeding hands the object of his search. So Christ descended from the glory of heaven into the squalor of earth, into sinful human society, in order to retrieve humans and bring them back up with Him to the glory of heaven, His torn and bleeding hands a sign of the value He has placed on the object of His quest. Twelve men were converted that evening. Afterwards, someone complained to Wesley about the inappropriateness of allowing preachers who were too ignorant to know the meaning of the texts they were preaching on. Wesley, simply said, "Never mind, the Lord got a dozen oysters tonight." Charles was the better hymn-writer of the two. He wrote over 6000 hymns, including about 600 for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**Psalm 129** Sœpe expugnaverunt  
  
1 "Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth," \*  
let Israel now say;  
  
2 "Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, \*  
but they have not prevailed against me."  
  
3 The plowmen plowed upon my back \*  
and made their furrows long.  
  
4 The Lord, the Righteous One, \*  
has cut the cords of the wicked.  
  
5 Let them be put to shame and thrown back, \*  
all those who are enemies of Zion.  
  
6 Let them be like grass upon the housetops, \*  
which withers before it can be plucked;  
  
7 Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, \*  
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;  
  
8 So that those who go by say not so much as,  
"The Lord prosper you. \*  
We wish you well in the Name of the Lord."

**Romans 12:11-17**

11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

**Luke 9:1-6**

9Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3He said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. 4Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. 5Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.’ 6They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Song of Simeon** *Nunc Dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
    to go in peace as you have promised;   
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
    whom you have prepared for all the world to see:   
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
    and the glory of your people Israel.

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 together*.*

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**

O God, you inspired your servants John and Charles Wesley with burning zeal for the sanctification of souls and endowed them with eloquence in speech and song: Kindle such fervor in your Church, we entreat you, that those whose faith has cooled may be warmed, and those who have not known Christ may turn to him and be saved. *Amen.*

*Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son  
revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that  
we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be  
strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his  
likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever. 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.

Almighty, everlasting God, let our prayer in your sight be as   
incense, the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.   
Give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and   
Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around   
us. Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the   
heart of your Son as he bore his passion, and let it burn in us   
to eternal life and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Prayers of the People,** *Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

*Presider: Gracious and loving One, you have revealed your glory in Christ, and you call your Church to be transformed into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another: Let your transfiguring grace be present with us, bringing the light of Christ's resurrection to the needs of the world, as we pray: Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.*

Litanist: Holy and Transcendent One, through Christ, you have revealed your divine glory in our humanity: Awaken the Church to see your presence manifested throughout the world, that we may serve you with a hope that acts with great boldness in your name.

Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; **God is the Holy One.**

Let your glory be known among the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the world, that they may accomplish your purpose to establish equity and to execute justice and righteousness.

Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; **God is the Holy One.**

Send your transfiguring light forth into all the world to heal and comfort all who suffer from sadness, illness, poverty, injustice or oppression: Speak your healing words and show us the light of your countenance.

Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; **God is the Holy One.**

Visit this community with your enlightening grace and reveal yourself as you did upon the holy mountain, that your brightness may shine forth from this place to the glory of your name.

Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; **God is the Holy One.**

We have come to this holy place to wait and to pray:

Hear our intercessions on behalf of those whom we commend to you, especially \_\_\_.

* Those on our prayer list and others we name, silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.
* Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe; our Diocesan bishops Andy, Jeff, Hector, Kai, and new assisting bishop for the North Region, Brian Seage; our clergy (Eileen, George, Robby, Jim, and Addison) and all those who work at and for St. James’, including lay people, volunteers and Vestry members.
* We pray for our City Council members, Mayor, City Manager, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Travis County Judge, 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 the president and vice-president and all in this administration.
* 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, in every place where oppression, famine, and violence have 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 give you thanks for the light which shines into our lives, especially for \_\_\_.

* Our family and friends, for healing and restoration to health and wholeness.
* 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, and for all our musicians and worship leaders.
* 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 in the office 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 the Rev. Addison as Chaplain.
* We give thanks for our seminarians from SSW: Peter, Angel, and Ari.

You have taken your own creation into the cloud of eternal life; may your eternal light shine upon those who have died and for whom we pray, especially \_\_\_.

Let us confess God’s Name, which is great and awesome; **God is the Holy One.**

*Presider: We give you thanks, O Holy One, for the dazzling vision of the glory of Christ, our hope and our inspiration: May all creation behold the light of your countenance and be changed into Christ's likeness from glory to glory, through the power of your Holy Spirit, for you live in glory everlasting, now and forever.* **Amen.**

**Blessing**

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. We are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it. And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us now and remain with us always. *Amen.*

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*