

PRAYING TOGETHER

DECEMBER 2023

Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

1 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- **Application, Confession & Thanksgiving - A time of open prayer together**
- **Worship: You are my all in all - (see separate sheet).**
- **Communion**

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Supplication Prayers:

1. All Advent Outreach services:

- **Mens' Christmas Meal:** Give thanks that our event was so well attended and that guests came along. Give thanks for Michael Prior & the talk he gave about the history of the Gospel in Neston and the need for continued prayer and witness among the residents there.
- **Mon 11th Dec - Women's Christmas Meal:** Pray that many would sign-up & bring guests to this event. Pray that those serving & attending would be encouraged and that guests would be open to hearing about the wonderful news & truth of Jesus.
- **Sat 9th Dec - Born-in-a-Barn Outreach Event.**
Give thanks that all x360 tickets have been sold out to a majority of people who don't attend CBC. Pray for all involved in preparation, acting, serving, clean-up, hosting - that the real story of Christmas would be clearly communicated through the experience on the day. Pray that God would open hearts to hear the Gospel message and that people would be interested in finding out more about Jesus, coming to CBC in the New year and joining the Hope Explored course.
- **Sun 17th Dec - Carol Service & 24th Dec - Christmas Eve evening event.**
Pray for friends and family to be invited to these events.
- **Mon 25th Dec - Christmas Day Service.** Pray and give thanks for all those serving at this event. Pray for the guests who will be coming - family and friends visiting for the Christmas holidays. Pray that we would be welcoming and that people would be pointed to the truth of Jesus, the greatest gift we have received and will ever receive from God.

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2. Pastoral Care:

- **Please pray for Nancy Sawyer & her family:**
 - Uncle Andrew lives alone & suffers with dementia. Recently he has had his daily carers reduced from 4 to 1, which has put a huge strain on the family struggling to provide the 24-7 care needed to support him.
 - Please pray for respite for Nancy's mum Alison who is the main carer for her husband Bruce, who is also suffering from dementia.
 - Pray that the whole family would continue to trust in the Lord for each day's strength, energy to keep going & that those caring would have the wisdom needed to make the right decisions.
- **Please pray for Jo & Adrian Pillinger:**
 - Graham, Jo's Dad passed away in November and his funeral will be 11th Dec.
 - Pray for the whole family as they come to terms with their grief and loss.
 - Pray that they would continue to hold on to the sure and certain hope in God's love in the difficult days and months ahead.
- **Please pray for Nicola Woodland:**
 - Nicola's mum Margaret, passed away in January this year.
 - Pray that Christmas would be a time of comfort and resting in Christ's love.
- **Please pray for Wendy & Steve Rowe:**
 - As they support their children through a challenging season of their lives.
- Please pray for all those who are experiencing bereavement & grief, that they would continue to trust the Lord each day in their suffering and loss.
- Take time to either name and/or pray about people you know who are suffering.

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- Please pray for all those who are struggling with mental illness, anxious waiting for medical test results & treatment, loneliness, worry and anxiety, that they would continue to cast their cares on the Lord and continue speaking to him in prayer each day.
- Please pray for all those struggling with financial worries.
- Take time to lift up all those you know of who are in need of pastoral care, encouragement and hope this Christmas.

3. **Launching new services for 2024:**

- Please pray for the launch of our new services on Sunday 14th January:

10:30am CBC@Priory Street.

10am CBC@Neston.

Midweek@Priory Street.

- Pray that each of the congregations would be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in their knowledge of God.
- Pray that each of the leadership teams for the congregations, that they would have prayerful wisdom in the decisions they make.
- Pray that all congregations would continue to prioritise their relationship with Jesus. Pray they stay in His Word & fellowship deeply with Him in prayer.
- Pray that each congregation would have an identity grounded in Christ and his Word.
- Pray for good relationships in the communities that we are serving & making Jesus known in.
- Pray for our connections to be strengthened with the local community.
- Pray for intentional & loving contact with our neighbours.

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- Please continue to pray for Rudloe Community Centre. Pray that our bid to take it on as an outreach centre for the community would be successful and that nothing would hold back the process.
- Pray that we would find new people who are open and excited about a new work in their community and that there would be Gospel fruit as hearts and lives are changed.

4. Official Mission Partners:

Steve and Gill Bryant - WEC International



- Gill is leading two more early morning online learning circles on 8th and 15th December. Please pray for the nine participants, that through learning and interaction will be beneficial as they continue to support our missionary families. Gill needs energy and strength to finish well.
- Steve has been busy with a lot of online safeguarding training. Pray that this will be effective and helpful and especially for the training of trainers. His last learning circle in this phase is on 19th December.

Benjamin Francis BMS, (Gillian and Abigail) BMS



- Pray for our Believers to model God's love across religions and caste barriers.
- Pray for Believers to have courageous and bold faith in the midst of rising persecution.
- Pray for open doors for Gospel resources to reach India's unreached people.

Prison Ministry

- Pray for physical protection for believers inside Prisons.
- Pray for unity and brotherly love between believers inside prisons, that they might shine like the stars in the sky as they hold firmly to the word of life.
- Pray for believers who are about to be released, that they might be welcomed into churches and supported with love and fellowship.

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AIM Mission Trips

Thank you for:

- The teams that served in Africa.
- The way that God used us and grew us as we served.
- The blessing that we received through serving.
- The opportunity to see the library project in the slums and seeing dependency on God by the people there.
- Conversations had with missionaries and learning about how God is working in Africa.
- The privilege to provide children's and youth programmes to provide opportunities for the missionary kids to learn and worship together with other children in the same environment as them.

Pray for:

- The missionaries as they return to their daily work, that they will feel refreshed, blessed and encouraged by the opportunity to sit under God's word together.
- The children, that they return to school/home school having had a great time and experience with other children .
- That the teaching the children and youth heard with help them to draw closer to God, and reinforce the teaching they receive from their parents, that this to work encourage parents.
- That the team will hold on to this precious experience, a gift from God and be thankful that God used us in this unique way.

Other Mission charities that we support:



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

AIM, Oasis, Compassion, Bible Society, Tearfund and Open Doors:-

AIM-Africa Inland Mission- is a Christian mission sending agency with a heart for Africa's peoples. Our desire is to see the worship of Jesus spread across Africa. Our Children's worker and Youth Pastor are often asked to take teams to run events for children during Mission Conferences.

Oasis- an International Teams refugee ministry centre in Traiskirchen Austria. We are a team of international workers with a christian worldview serving refugees from around the world.



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Compassion- Aim to bring children out of poverty, providing a better future for them. Our holistic child development model is tailored to a child's age, gender, health, culture, family and community situation. We work through the local church.

Bible Society- We want everyone to discover the Bible's message for themselves. We translate the Bible and make it accessible in people's heart languages.

Tearfund- We tackle poverty and injustice through working with local churches globally, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. We believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Open Doors- Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. They support victims of violence and disaster in practical ways, teach new skills and provide training for Christians and Church Leaders,

Pray for:



Stuart and Lynne Little - Mercy Ships

- For daughter Zoe who is expecting twins early June (so very likely arriving May). She's really not feeling so great and also fractured her wrist last week. We are all delighted and we're especially glad we are home right now.
- Thanks for Matthew's baptism in Lincoln on the 10th December.
- For wisdom for us both as we approach the final few months with Mercy Ships, especially for a good replacement HR director for Lynne.



Steve Lancaster- The Word for the World

- During the last 3 months alone, more than 40 new projects were started through the Bible Translation Fund in collaboration with the Seed Company! We continue to praise God for their generous support.



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- With so much growth happening, we're grateful to God for the willingness of Wycliffe Bible Translators to help us build our capacity. Please pray for God's wisdom as we temporarily assign individuals from Wycliffe to TWFTW positions.
 - I'll be heading to Slovakia on 8th Dec to be a part of the launch of the full Eastern Slovak Romani Bible. The New Testament was published back in 2014, and 9 years later, the translators have completed their task! Please pray that this event would go well, and that these Bibles would be well distributed...and read!
 - Please also pray for the Aromanian Project in Albania - for unity in the team, and for progress to be made.