



*in our villages, towns & cities*

# Prayer

December 2017

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Glory be to God on high and peace on Earth descend: God comes down, He bows the sky, and shows Himself our friend. God the invisible appears: God, the blessed, the great I am, sojourns in this vale of tears, and Jesus is His name. Him the angels all adored, their maker and their king: tidings of their humbled Lord they now to mortals bring. Emptied of His majesty, of His dazzling glories shorn, being's source begins to be and god Himself is born!

See the eternal son of God a mortal son of man; dwelling in an Earthly clod whom heaven cannot contain. Stand amazed, you heavens, at this: see the Lord of earth and skies. Humbled to the dust He is and in a manger, lies. We, the sons of men, rejoice, the prince of peace proclaim; with heaven's host lift up your voice and shout Emmanuel's name. Knees and hearts to Him we bow; of our flesh and our bone. Jesus is our brother now and God is all our own. **Charles wesley**

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- 1 Dec** HOPE FOR ENQUIRERS 1 Peter 3:15 Peter challenges us to 'be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks....' Sometimes the questions are not easy. The Christian Enquiry Agency is here to help. Our website [Christianity.org.uk](http://Christianity.org.uk) gives enquirers individual answers to their questions about Christianity; a Gospel of Luke if they request one; details of a local church or prayer for any issue. PRAYER Father God, thank You for the thousands of people who have used [Christianity.org.uk](http://Christianity.org.uk) over the years to find the answers they need about Your Son Jesus and the Christian faith. Please bring the website to the attention of more people through Church posters, invitations, parish magazines and the like, so that more people can find the answers they need. PETER Graystone, Christian Enquiry Agency.
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- 2 Dec** Lord I pray today for my neighbours and work colleagues who once knew You, but have lost their faith. As we approach this Christmas season, may the story of the incarnation remind them how much You love them, and may they choose to make a new start with You.
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- 3 Dec** Father God, thank you for loving me and for sending Jesus to live, die and rise again so I can know your love. I am so grateful. Please use me to share your love with others
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- 4 Dec** Father we pray for all those attending Carol services and Nativity plays over this Christmas period. We pray that their minds will not be closed by cynicism, but that they will be open to respond to Your amazing story. We pray that many will encounter Your love at this time.
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- 5 Dec** Many Churches will provide night shelters for homeless people this winter. Pray Psalm 18 v 16-19 for each street sleeper, that they will know that God delights in them. Pray that the Church will be a 'spacious place' where they can recover self-respect, and that many will find these shelters provide a step to wholeness this year
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- 6 Dec** Please pray for the many pub landlords that have welcomed Churches to hold Carol Services on their premises this year. Pray that these will be great evangelistic opportunities
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- 7 Dec** Father we continue to pray for all the distribution of the HOPE Christmas magazine and we thank You that Your word will not return onto You void. We pray as people read this magazine that Your Holy Spirit draw alongside them and help them understand what they read
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- 8 Dec** CHRISTMAS HOPE LUKE 2 v 16-18 When the shepherds had seen the new-born Jesus, they spread the word and amazed everyone who heard their story. This Christmas Churches will be distributing the Christmas HOPE magazine door-to-door in villages, towns, and cities, spreading the Jesus story and inviting people to Church. How will you and your Church be reaching out to people in your community this month? PRAYER Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to make it possible for us to know You. We pray for Churches during this busy Advent Season, that we will take the many opportunities Christmas gives, to talk about Jesus, to invite people to Christmas events and to testify to the hope Jesus gives each of us when we trust Him. Catherine Butcher, Hope for Every Home
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<b>9 Dec</b>	Father God we cannot thank You enough for the amazing truth that a Saviour came into the world and darkness was destroyed by light. This Christmas we pray that every Church congregation in every corner of the UK may be good news to their communities. We have such a wonderful story to share
<b>10 Dec</b>	God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.
<b>11 Dec</b>	Give thanks today for the wonderful work the Board and Leadership of HOPE do and for the guidance, encouragement, and direction they give. May they all know your love and presence at this Christmas time
<b>12 Dec</b>	Father God we pray for all the people who support HOPE in finance thus making it possible to spread Your word. May they know the gratitude of all at HOPE. Thank You for them.
<b>13 Dec</b>	We pray for all those working to keep us safe at this time of the year. May they have the energy to stay alert to trouble and danger and may they know God's powerful strength as they protect everyone
<b>14 Dec</b>	It is terrific that plans to make Jesus known in 2018 are taking shape throughout the country. Please continue to pray for a real increase in people coming to know Jesus as their Saviour
<b>15 Dec</b>	CHRISTMAS OUTREACH AND CAROL SERVICES Acts 26 v 27-28 In a world of instant results, it is good to remind ourselves that the journey of faith is a long one for most people. Let us make a decision today, that 'short time or long', to use all the opportunities that Christmas brings to care, invite and pray for those we know to come to know Jesus. PRAYER Dear Lord, I pray for opportunities to share my faith with someone over this Christmas. I pray that their heart will be 'strangely warmed' and they might consider you over the Christmas season. Help me to know what events would be best for them and how I can help them along their journey towards you. Amen Mark Greenwood, National Evangelist for Elim Churches, HOPE Leadership Team
<b>16 Dec</b>	There has been lots of positive feedback about the 40 Stories of Hope where people have shared how Jesus has changed their lives. The stories are truly inspiring, and copies can be ordered from <a href="http://www.cwr.org.uk">www.cwr.org.uk</a>
<b>17 Dec</b>	God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death. And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain
<b>18 Dec</b>	As we gather together in prayer meetings, home groups or church services at New Year, let us come before our Father in Heaven asking for His mercy on His Church and on our land, and asking for His Kingdom to advance across our nation. HOPE's New Year prayer ideas will be available to download before Christmas
<b>19 Dec</b>	Praise God and give thanks that more than 350 Churches have signed up to Mission Academy Live since the launch on 30th September. For more information go on the HOPE website <a href="http://www.hopetogether.org.uk">www.hopetogether.org.uk</a>
<b>20 Dec</b>	This Christmas, let us be praying for opportunities to talk about the living Jesus and to show the difference He makes in our lives
<b>21 Dec</b>	Father, thank You that You are with me. Help me to be more aware of Your in-dwelling presence today. May Your life in me, comfort those around me who find Christmas a lonely time. Immanuel, God with us, awake the hearts of those around me who do not know You yet
<b>22 Dec</b>	REACHING OUT AT CHRISTMAS Luke 2 v 13-18 So it is only three days to go until the big day! It can be so easy to be caught up in the frenetic activity getting everything ready for those we know, that we can often forget those for whom the Christmas season is difficult. Take a moment to ask God to bring someone to mind for whom that is true. PRAYER Lord Jesus, help us to learn from this story of when angels told the shepherds on the hillside about your birth, they left their flocks and went to see. May we be ready to put down our own agendas to make time to both worship you and give time to help to those who are struggling this Christmas. Amen Jane Holloway World Prayer Centre

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- 23 Dec** Thank You Father God that Churches are finding the 'Talking Jesus – what can I do? a great encouragement as they prepare to make Jesus known in 2018. We pray that You will continue to bless this resource so that it can be a blessing to others
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- 24 Dec** God came in human flesh and there was no room for Him. Even when things seem to have gone wrong, God is still in the midst and in control. This Christmas, we pray for those whose lives have not turned out the way they imagined they would. May they find new hope in this season
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- 25 Dec** Joy has flowed from the heart of God into the world, yet the world often thinks that following Jesus is about negativity. Father God, we want to be people of celebration, who delight in You. Make us agents of joy this Christmas, so that our communities will see that Christians know how to celebrate
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- 26 Dec** Father, raise up a generation of children and young people in the UK and across Europe who follow You with passion. May young people everywhere be encouraged to challenge the old and unlock the new
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- 27 Dec** Give thanks that God longs for every child and young person to come to know His Son Jesus. Pray for children or young people you know who do not know God's love; that they will have a revelation of how awesome it is, and will link up with a youth group or holiday club in 2018
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- 28 Dec** Many of our children and young people have never heard the truth that they are made in God's image. We pray that many of them will stop living to the dictates of the media but realise they are unique and live in the truth of that
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- 29 Dec** GETTING READY FOR 2018 Matthew 9 v 37-38 HOPE's dream is a growing Church, showing Jesus' love and telling the Jesus story at the heart of every community. Churches across the spectrum of denominations are working together to make Jesus known with words and actions in our villages, towns, and cities. Let us pray asking God for opportunities to speak about Jesus, inviting people to respond to His love. PRAYER Heavenly Father, help me to see opportunities to share your love with the people I meet. Show me how to serve them, and when to speak. I pray too for my Church and the Churches in my area, that we will be effective in telling the Jesus story and giving people ways to find out more and respond. Amen Roy Crowne HOPE
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- 30 Dec** Go to a place where you can see a view and pray, 'God you are bigger than this world and bigger than my biggest thought of You. So, I want you to be the biggest thing I my life'. Taken from TRY PRAYING
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- 31 Dec** As we look back over 2017 we give thanks for answered prayer and also for those prayers God did not answer as we wanted – trusting that You have a better plan for us. As we gather to welcome the new year in Prayer, pray that God will renew hope in every area of our lives
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