

CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD Prayertime for the Day

(week commencing 10th January 2021)



1. **A prayer at Epiphany.**

For those who seek a Saviour we lead them to the Stable to the One who was born to bring freedom, forgiveness, liberty. For those who seek assurance we lead them to the Light to the One who opens eyes to understanding God's Word, Truth. For those who seek Forgiveness we lead them to a Grace beyond comprehension, to wholeness, healing and Peace. Amen

2. **A prayer for our schools.**

Heavenly Father, We pray You will bless our local schools and all their staff as they try to cope with so many changes to routine at such short notice. May they know Your presence to help them and may they not get too stressed. And we pray for all our schoolchildren that they may get the education that they need to grow and thrive in these days. Amen

3. **A prayer for those feeling vulnerable.**

For all whose day starts with anxiety, as they leave the security of home worrying about the risk of infection; particularly those whose health or age classifies them as vulnerable. Loving God, be close, keep them safe, along with all whose tasks today includes the care of frail and elderly. And for all of us, grant wisdom to make sensible choices, not just for ourselves, but for everybody. *(faithandworship.com)*

4. **A prayer for the Care Givers.**

Father, we come to pray for those who are caring for the sick. It takes a kind and selfless heart to care for those who are sick, and so Father we pray for them. We pray that You would be their source of rest, their source of replenishment when weary, and their source of hope in such overwhelming times. Lord we know that whosoever pours out shall be given back in proportion, so we pray blessings upon these caregivers. We also pray for their health that they may not fall ill. Father protect them with a hedge of protection against the germs of coronavirus and help those who are giving to be protected as they nurse others back to health. Bless them, oh Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen *(crosswalks.com)*

5. **Lift to God anyone you know that need a healing touch or a sense of the Lord's comfort from His Holy Spirit.**

Songs:

Two songs: "Consider the stars" from Kristyn Getty with some amazing night photography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7rIvi2eKbE>

and a joyful version of "Joy to the world" from Phil Wickham of the hymn by Isaac Watts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtrnuG5wZ-Y>

Merciful father. Accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen



BIBLE PASSAGES

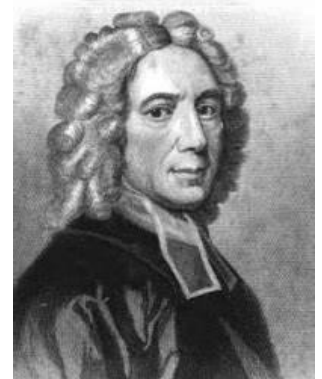
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8 v 3-4

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands let the mountains sing together for joy; Let them sing before the Lord he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness. Psalm 98 v 4-9

ISAAC WATTS – Hymn writer

At Isaac's birth in 1674, his father was in prison for his Nonconformist sympathies (that is, he would not embrace the established Church of England). His father was eventually freed but Isaac respected his courage and remembered his mother's tales of nursing her children on the jail steps.

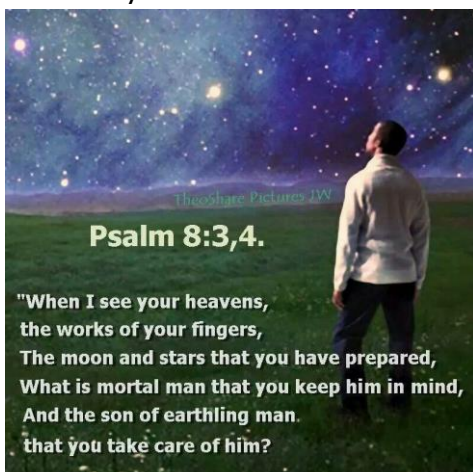
Young Isaac showed genius early. He was learning Latin by age 4, Greek at 9, French at 11, and Hebrew at 13. Several wealthy townspeople offered to pay for his university education at Oxford or Cambridge, which would have led him into Anglican ministry. Isaac refused and at 16 went to London to study at a leading Nonconformist academy.



In those days the English churches only sang metrical psalms which were very sombre. Watts didn't reject metrical psalms; he simply wanted to see them more impassioned. "They ought to be translated in such a manner as we have reason to believe David would have composed them if he had lived in our day," he wrote. He often complained about it to his father until his father said "If you think that, then write some of your own!" So he did. In his lifetime he wrote over 750 hymns.

Many of his English colleagues couldn't recognize his songs as based upon the Psalms. How could "Joy to the World" really be Psalm 98? Or "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" be Psalm 72, or "O God Our Help in Ages Past" be Psalm 90? And he came in for a lot of criticism. But today his songs are some of the best known and loved hymns of all time.

In the difficult times we are in these days then the Good News of Jesus birth is even more the "Joy to the World" that we should be sharing.



KRISTYN GETTY

And if you listen to Kristyn Getty's song "Consider the Stars" then you will hear the lines "Do not be afraid Consider the stars in the sky; When it is darkest they shine out the brightest."

Worth remembering!