

Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary February 2025

This month's prayers are based on the themes of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Candlemas), Racial Justice, Students, and Reflections on God's love for us. As I have not received many activities for prayer, I have included a week to explore prayer through hymns.

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith – StF, Hymns and Psalms – HP, The Methodist Hymn Book - MHB. Other resources are as noted.

Saturday 1st – Candlemas – Traditionally a service to dedicate the candles used in worship throughout the Year. Today largely celebrated by the Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and some Methodist churches.

Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

In prayer seek the power and purpose of the Holy Spirit to enable the light of your faith to shine in the dark places, to give light and hope to others.

Sunday 2nd



**The presentation of Jesus in the Temple –(Bristol Cathedral. Photo Graham Warr)
Jesus the Light of the World!**

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel'

Mary and Joseph were amazed at these words! Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary 'This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' (Luke 2:28-35)

Give thanks and praise for the reality of that promise.

Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Addlestone 10.30am, St Michael's Sheerwater 10.30am, Woking Trinity - Joint English and Cantonese Communion Service at **11.00am**, followed by Joint Lunar New Year Celebrations, Foundry Worship 6.00pm led by Justin Brierley.

Monday 3rd Jesus said – *You are here to be a light, bringing out God's colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're to go public on this. If I make you light bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I am going to put you on a light-stand – so shine!* (from Matthew 5:14-16 The Message)

Take time to listen to what God is telling you where your light should shine.

Tuesday 4th Give thanks for the service provided by our Ministers, Local Preacher, Worship Leaders, Pastoral Visitors, Stewards, Administrators, Musicians, Readers, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers all Congregations and any other volunteers. Reflect on your position – is God calling you – like Isaiah – to fulfil or share in one of these roles. 'Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I said here I am send me! (Isaiah 6:8)

Wednesday 5th Pray for the Blessing, Ministry and Mission of the Prayer Walk around Sheerwater 12.00-12.45pm, all are welcome

Thursday 6th Thinking of Candlemass and light – Reflect on Genesis 1:1 – 2: In the beginning when God created the heavens the earth , the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said let there be light and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Give thanks to God for Creation and the significant role of light in our lives, both practically and spiritually.



Threads through Creation, Guildford
Cathedral October 2022 (Photo Dan Warr)

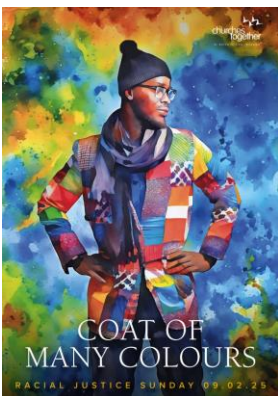
Friday 7th Following on from yesterday I share some words by an elderly evangelist and hymn/song writer who shared these thoughts with a group of us students when we were at Cliff College on Mission in Bradford. –

'The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin. No light in such darkness did shine when over a manger in Bethlehem's Inn shone a star with its glory sublime. Wonderful Counsellor, Saviour divine the whole world waits for you. You became so poor to make others rich someday they'll understand.

Continue to pray for that light to shine in your life as a witness to others.

Saturday 8th Pray for those who live in the darkness, for whatever - reason physically or spiritually that God's love may shine in their lives; and enable us to support them in whatever ways we can. Amen.

Sunday 9th Racial Justice Sunday – Pray for all the congregations in the circuit as individuals no matter who they are or where they come from. Pray for justice for all those oppressed and penalised because of their race/colour. Reflect on the words of this well-known African American traditional song – 'God's got the whole world in God's hands, you and me brothers and sisters, tiny babies' - everyone because God loves us all unequivocally.



Churches Together Methodist Church
Resources 2025

Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Byfleet 10.30am, Knaphill 10,00am. Merrow 10.30am, Weybridge 10.30 – and all who participate.

Monday 10th A week to celebrate love – God's love! Pray with me, from Sunday School Days:
I am so glad that my Father in heaven tells of his love in the book God has given. Wonderful things in the Bible I see. This is the dearest that Jesus loves me! I am so glad that Jesus loves even me. (MHB 421 Phillip Bliss)

Tuesday 11th In my youth and God's call – *Oh, the love that drew salvations plan; Oh, the grace that brought it down to me! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary! Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.* (Youth Praise 33. W R Newell).

Wednesday 12th In my work (teaching): - Lord for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired me, cheered me on my way ; sought me and saved me, pardoned and provided, Lord of my years I bring my thanks today. (StF 470: 1 Timothy Dudley-Smith) .

Thursday 13th My vocation, preaching. May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day, by God's love and power controlling all I do and say.
May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through God's love and power.
May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort the sick and sorrowing.
May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea; him exalting, self-forgetting – this is victory.
May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.
(StF 504 Katie Barclay Wilkinson)

Friday 14th *In love* - Praise to the Lord who does prosper my work and defend me; surely your goodness and mercy here daily attend me; I ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with that love does befriend me. (StF 88:3 Joachim Neander) – A hymn sung in both German and English at our wedding on 10.08.1974 in the Lutheran Church at Landiswil, Switzerland.

Saturday 15th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of Clothes 4U at Knaphill 2.00pm-4.00pm

Sunday 16th Student Sunday - Pray for all those you know who are studying – in school, college, university, at home, online, wherever - that God will bless their study.

Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Cranleigh 10.30am, Guildford St. Marys 10.30am, West Horsley 10.00am, Woking Trinity - Foundry Worship 6.00pm

Monday 17th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of Chaplaincy across the Circuit, in Schools, the University, other Colleges, Hospitals, Care Homes, HMP Send and any other locations you know that the Holy Spirit will work through them as they reach out to those in need.

Tuesday 18th **Reflect on these hymns about prayer and your response to 'Let us pray!'**

Give me, Lord, a thankful heart and a discerning mind; give, as I play the Christian's part, the strength to finish what I start and act on what I find,
When in the rush of days, my will is habit-bound and slow, help me to keep in vision still what love and power and peace can fill a life that trusts in you. (StF 520:1-2 Thomas Cayl Micklem))

Wednesday 19th Lord Jesus, with all your Church I long to see your kingdom come: show me your way of righting wrong and turning sorrow into song until you bring me home. (Ibid v 4)

Thursday 20th Listening God, you hear me when I cannot speak, when despair and turmoil leave us faint and weak. In love you call me back to you again and your grace reminds me how you feel my pain.
Searching God, you find me when I go astray, as self-centred living takes me from your way. In love you seek me, show me what I've lost, and your tears remind me what forgiveness cost. (StF 524 v: 1-2 Marjorie Dobson)

Friday 21st Suffering God, you lift me from my deepest grief, when emotion blinds me to my own belief. In love you touch me with your *nail-torn hand* and your wounds remind me why you understand.
Risen God, you show me love too strong for death, evil deeds defeated by your living breath. In love you teach me never to despair, your new life reminds me, hope is always there. (Ibid vv 3-4)



Nail torn hands: Heart on Fire Triptych
Chichester Cathedral (Photo Painter's own
Professor Anne Grebby, used with
permission)

Saturday 22nd Take time to be holy, often speak with your Lord; abide in God always, and feed on God's word: Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone; By looking to Jesus, like him you will be; your friends in your conduct God's likeness shall see.
Take time to be holy, let God be your guide. In joy or in sorrow still follow your Lord, and , looking to Jesus, still trust in God's word. *(from 458 The Song Book of the Salvation, William Dunn Longstaff altered)*

Sunday 23rd Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Godalming 10.30 am, Stoughton 10.30 am, Walton-on-Thames 10.00am, West Horsley 10.00am and all who participate

Monday 24th Reflection and Prayer as we prepare for Lent - O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you, I give you back the life I owe that in your ocean depths its flow will richer fuller be.
O light that follows all my way, I yield my flickering torch to you; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in your sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be. *(From StF 636 vv1-2)*

Tuesday 25th O joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to you; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be. *(Ibid v3)*

Wednesday 26th O cross that lifts up my head, I dare not ask to fly from you. I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. *(Ibid v 4)*

Thursday 27th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of Coffee and Cake at St Mary's Guildford 10.30am-12noon

Friday 28th Pray for the Street Angels in Woking, Guildford and elsewhere that the love, light, power and hope of Abba Father, Son and Holy Spirit will shine through them and bless their commitment to serve. Give them strength and security at this sometimes, difficult time. Amen

If your church or a group has something specific you want to prayer for, please let me know through Lucy in the Circuit Office. Thank you.

God bless you all!

Graham Warr

Formatting & editing: Dan WS Woking Trinity