



PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES



PRAYER POINTS - DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

Please use these 'Points' in personal prayer, but also encourage its use in church services/meetings, study & prayer groups.

WEEK 1 - SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Let us take time to be still
Let us make room to be empty
Let us find a way to be silent
that we may move, be filled and hear from our God this Advent season*

- ❖ **Tue 5 Dec – On-line NENI Presbytery meeting**
- ❖ **Congregational Support Committee** – Convener Rev Neil Meyer, Kintore
Ministers Fran Henderson, Julia Meason, Joe Somevi, Wiekus van Straaten
Elders George Berstan, Kathryn Cowie, Jim Donald, Sheila Garson, Natasha Hepburn, Jennifer Leighton, Audrey McConnachie, Louise Simpson, Janette Smart

Father God, Bless the work of this Committee and its Convener Neil Meyer, as they seek to support congregations with good systems and ways to protect and administer the ongoing business of the Church and equip its office-bearers in safeguarding, Data Processing and Inspection of Records. May they deal with regulatory and legal matters with your grace and patience and remain people-orientated.

WEEK 2 – SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER = SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Advent is about waiting. It is the pregnant pause of the church....
That for which we wait is not a narrow salvation that saves 'us' from 'them';
it is a deliverance of all, for all.*

- ❖ **Complaints Committee** – Convener Rev Peter Johnston, Devana, Aberdeen
Ministers Euan Glen
Elders Mike Jamieson, Sean Jones, Stuart Lynch, James Roberts, George Sinclair, Ed Stuart, Margaret Sutherland

Dear Lord God, we pray that the work of this Committee might be little and seldom! But if it is needed, then may your grace, love and wisdom bring swift, kindly and just resolution..

WEEK 3 – SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER – THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Advent is not for the faint-hearted....
It is an acknowledgment that where we are is not where we are meant to be.
And so we are summoned on a journey, on a pilgrimage.*

- ❖ **Property & Finance Committee** – Convener Mr Mike Leys, Fountainhall, Aberdeen
Ministers David Barr, Irene Charlton, Eddie Enslin
Elders Elaine Adams, Scott Anderson, Maureen Esson, Donald Grassie, Dick Jenkins, Ronnie Johnstone, Jack Macintosh, Elaine Mitchell, Roger Ramshaw, Valerie Taylor, Eric Wilson,
Ex Officio GT Manse Group - Rev Sheila Kirk; Buildings Officer - Rev Ian Murray

Great Tabernacle and Temple Architect and Builder, Owner of the cattle on a thousand hills, continue to equip Mike Leys and this committee with the necessary technical and financial expertise and gracious wisdom as they advise and steer Presbytery through these hard times, and as they help congregations face new realities, but very much still under your directing hand.

WEEK 4 – SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



CHRISTMAS PRAYER by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the songs of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and
open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May Christmas morning
make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



*Wishing all Presbyters and their families a
Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!*

JANUARY 2024

- ❖ Many churches have their start date for unions and adjustments as 1 January 2024. Remember them in your prayers, using your imagination to empathise with many mixed feelings. E.g. Barthol Chapel lw Tarves and Udney Pitmedden (Gordon); Newtonhill and Portlethen (Kincardine & Deeside); New Pitsligo & Strichen & Tyrie (Buchan). Others 'joined forces' in Nov and Dec 23 and will still be finding their feet in their relationships.

Dear Lord and Head of the Church, minister to all who are finding the changes hard. Take away bitterness and endue congregations and their leadership teams with new faith and power that the world may see how we Christians love one another. In your mercy, hear our prayer for this New Year and all that it holds of HOPE in you, our dear Saviour and Eternal Friend. Amen

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him;
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us-
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[Quotes on page 1 are from: *To Nativity and Beyond* by David Sinclair]