

## **Intercessions for Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 - Epiphany**

As we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, we reflect on the story of the Magi arriving in Bethlehem and presenting kingly gifts to Jesus as a baby:  
Gold for a king. Frankincense for God. Myrrh for mortal man.

Heavenly Father, in this Epiphany season of light, shine your light upon us into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace and healing, shine your light upon us into those places of conflict and tension in our families, in our friendships, in our work and community relationships. May your light be a healing balm, bringing with it forgiveness and reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of connection shine your light upon us onto the common human ties that bind all your people together: neighbour and stranger, friend and enemy alike. In your light, remind us that you have created us all in your image, unique and beloved by you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of surprises and gifts, you revealed yourself as a newborn baby and, with a star, you led the peoples of earth to worship Jesus, your only Son; lead us to see you and help us to discover our gifts and talents so that we may offer them up to you and your service. Let us be Jesus's light in the world today.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, you revealed yourself to the world so that all people might look to you and be saved: may we know the wholeness that you bring. Be our light in the darkness that we may not stumble and lift us up again if we fall. Transform our hearts by your Spirit, that we may use our gifts to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God Among Us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all people, in all places, and in every kind of need. We pray for all people who live in constant danger, especially in those in parts of the world where the danger comes from their own rulers and their own people. We pray for people suffering from all kinds of oppression, whether through prejudice, deprivation, disease or exploitation.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are without faith, hope or love. We pray for those who are sick, desperate or bereaved and for those who care for them and seek to bring them relief from their suffering. Give them the strength and courage to carry on and have hope for the future. We pray especially for all those known to us who are in special need of our prayers, and we remember them now in a moment of silence ...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. Let us remember before God those who have died recently and those whose year's mind falls at this time. You turn our darkness into light: in your light shall we see light.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**