

# Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers December 2021 to February 2022

## **Evangelism**

As far as we are able, with God's help:

We will speak of the love of God.

We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.

We will share our faith with others.

(from Methodist Way of Life)

Heavenly Father, help us to follow Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life so that your glory is shown in the world.

May your Holy Spirit inspire the churches of our circuit as we seek to bring our Mission Action Plans to life, to the praise of your name.

Amen.

People are hurting, Jesus, and you are the Wounded Healer.

People are fearful, Lord, and you say, 'Do not be afraid.'

People are stressed and anxious, and you say, 'Come to me and I will give you rest.'

All around us, people need to know you. They need *you*.

Help us who know you, and yet who are also fearful and anxious, to trust you, to listen to you, and to see others with eyes wide open.

Give us courage and compassion to speak of your love.

May your Spirit enable us to live in a way that draws others to you.

Help us to share our faith with others.

We pray in your name,

Amen.

Holy Spirit, living flame of God's presence,  
you broke the bonds of race and nation,  
enabled your friends to communicate the good news in a fresh  
way.

You converted souls, emptied pockets and enabled all things to be  
made new.

Fire of God, do it again today and start with me.

Amen

*John Carne*

Prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008-9



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### **A prayer as we Dwell in the Word**

Loving God,  
Although our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things you are saying;  
Though we often neglect your influence,  
May we be convicted of your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Dwelling in the Word text: Matthew 5: 2-16 (NRSV)

### **The Beatitudes**

<sup>2</sup> Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely<sup>[b]</sup> on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Salt and Light**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Gracious God,  
Thank you for your extraordinary love shown to us in Jesus.  
Help us to live each moment of each day in gratitude,  
loving those around us and witnessing to the ways of your kingdom.  
Refresh us continually in the power of the Holy Spirit to be people  
of the Way.  
Amen.

Prayer from the booklet *Finding the Way* (Methodist Way of Life)

Today, Lord, open my eyes  
that I might see your image in everyone I meet;  
Today, Lord, open my ears  
that I might hear your word in the words that others speak;  
Today, Lord, open my mouth  
that I might speak your gracious word of love  
to those whose paths I cross;  
Today, Lord, open my heart, my mind and my whole being,  
that I might be filled with your Spirit and so serve you,  
more truly your disciple, in this, your world.  
For Jesus' sake. Amen

*James Booth*

(A former Circuit Superintendent in Reading & Silchester)

Prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008-9

## **A Suggestion for a creative way of praying:-**

*Walking prayer* - when walking, take notice of people and places around, and pray for them as you walk.

