

HOME WORSHIP FOR 7 FEBRUARY, THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

OPENING PRAYER

Come into the chill of our existence, O God, the cool of our soul. Bring the warmth of your presence, the glow of enthusiastic worship.

Come into the routine of our church, O God, into the familiar nature of our relationships. Bring the joy of good friends, the assurance that there are those on whom we can rely.

Come into our habitual ways, O God, the groove of our family life. Bring the inspiration of fresh challenges, the satisfaction of caring for our loved ones faithfully.

O God, we rejoice that Jesus the Way goes ahead of us, the pattern of our faith community, the direction of our future.

O God, we rejoice that Jesus the Compassionate One goes with us, calling us to acts of caring, showing us how much can be achieved if we work together.

O God, we rejoice that Jesus the Just is there for us, challenging us to confront the powerful ones, giving courage to the downtrodden.

O God, we rejoice that Jesus, risen and glorified, is there for us, defeater of darkness, eternal promise of peace. Amen.

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You call us to do the simple things, O God, and to do them well. You remind us to care for our bodies, through a healthy diet and regular exercise.

You call us to do the simple things, O God, and to do them well. You remind us to care for our minds, through a search for new truth and a determination to keep on learning.

You call us to do the simple things, O God, and to do them well. You remind us to care for our souls, through the joy of regular worship, and the discipline of daily bible reading and prayer.

You call us to do the simple things, O God, and to do them well. You remind us of the teaching of Jesus, to love you, Our God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

(Allow God to show you how you have not loved yourself, your neighbour or God as you should.)

Where we have no motivation to do the simple things well, our God will give us the resolution we need. God will be there to encourage and guide us. God will be there to refresh us and to pick us up when we fail. God will speak to us through the inspiration of friends and the witness of our faith community. Through practice and through dedication, we will see progress and know peace of mind and spirit. Thanks be to God! Amen.

MEMORY VERSE – try to memorise this verse from today’s readings.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only so full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the Godly wisdom that is touched by the beauty of creation, delights in the diversity of people, and warms to the possibilities of co-operative prayer and work for the coming of the kingdom.

Wise and holy God: we are your children.

We pray for the Godly wisdom that, in observing symptoms, discerns causes and responds to real needs; that strives not to control but enable, not to manipulate but empower.

Wise and holy God: we are your children.

We pray for the Godly wisdom that gives others both space and support, that encourages and guides, that knows when to speak and when to be silent.

Wise and holy God: we are your children.

We pray for the Godly wisdom that recognises the poverty of the rich and the wealth among the poor; that questions assumptions of worth and cherishes those whom the world discards.

Wise and holy God: we are your children.

We pray for the Godly wisdom that sees time in the context of eternity, and death as the gateway to heaven.

Wise and holy God: we are your children.

We pray for the Godly wisdom that lives simply and thankfully, rejoicing in all that God is and does. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We welcome the new week! We welcome opportunities for bringing hope and new life: hope to the suffering, new life within our villages.

We welcome opportunities for bringing light and peace: the light of bible learning, the peace that comes with prayer.

We welcome opportunities for bringing friendship and encouragement: the friendship of our church family, the encouragement of one member for another.

We welcome the new week with joy! God be with us in each new day! Amen.