

PRAYERS for January 1, 2023 – First Sunday after Christmas

Worship Assistant: As we come together in this new year, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Lord God, in faith we thank and praise You for Your grace and Your mercy. We cannot comprehend the extent and fullness of Your love. We just know that with You we feel safe; without You we are lost; with You we feel strong; without You we are weak; with You we feel nourished; without You we are hungry. We are ever thankful for Your sheltering love, Your living Word, and Your spiritual protection.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, You have granted glory to this world and sent glory into our hearts. Daily You send wonderful light to us through Your Word, Your sacraments, and Your church. Each day You light the shadows of our sorrow and our pain. Each day we can come to Your light through prayer. If we do not see the light, it is because we have closed our eyes to the brightness that comes from you. We ask that You help us keep our eyes and our hearts open to Your light and to Your love.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Glorious God, we ask that You be with Word of God today as we begin this new year as a family of believers. We are people of different faces and gifts gathered to worship Your Son, Jesus Christ. Bring us together in this fellowship in Your name, that we and all who worship here may be bearers of Your grace, doers of Your work, and believers of Your Word. Fill our church family in the upcoming year with the faith that You seek in us, the service that You ask of us, and the love that You give to us. Make this a year of growing and building Your kingdom.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Merciful God, thank You for bringing us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Help us to avoid the darkness and continue to walk in the light toward eternity. Be with all those today who carry heavy burdens. Have compassion on all who are ill, in sorrow, or in need of Your divine assistance. Today, we pray for those who are alone, those who are in the military and police services, those who are in the mission fields, those who are away from home, and those who have gone before us to be with You. We pray especially for friends and family who are on our prayer list and all those whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds) for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Loving Father, we are grateful for the birth of Your Son, Jesus. In Him, we can find love, peace, and joy that can only come because of Your love. Each day we pray that we may see You more clearly by the light that You have given us. Shed Your light on the evil that surrounds us in this world: the assaults on our religious freedoms, the acts of violence against churches and worshippers, and the breakdown and collapse of families. Protect our children and babies, transform our lives so that we may be used by You, and strengthen us to trust You with our struggles. We need You; we praise You; our hope is in You.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen