



## Bible Reflection – Isaiah 43:14 – 44:5

### Song: Only A Holy God

### Praise and Thanksgiving

## 1. The Life of our Church Family

### Christmas

- Thank God for our Christmas outreach and services – for our own spiritual blessing as a church and for all those who are not Christians, but with whom we were able to share the gospel.
- Thank God for all those who contributed to our services over the Christmas period, most notably musicians, the choir and the AV and tech team.
- Pray that those who came and heard the gospel would respond, whether soon or in the future, in repentance and faith.
- Pray that the books 'Four Kinds of Christmas' which were given away would be read and would lead some into or towards a faith in Jesus.

### Small Groups

- Praise God that our small groups began meeting before Christmas.
- Pray for small group leaders as they coordinate their groups and members, that these groups would be places of deepening discipleship and friendship.

### Parish Centre Refurbishment

- Praise God for some more funds being received recently towards the project.
- Pray for success in grant applications.
- Pray for wisdom for the planning committee as they oversee this project.
- We are anticipating the start of the project on 1st May 2022. Pray that this might go ahead and be completed on schedule and would provide a great gospel ministry resource for the next generation.
- Note: there will be a church meeting about the project on Sun 23 Jan, 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

### Firm Foundations series in Luke's Gospel

- As we begin our new series this Sunday, pray the Lord would use our time in Luke – both on Sundays and in small groups, to give us deep and firm foundations in our faith.
- Pray for unbelievers who join us on Sundays to be captivated by the person of Jesus presented in Luke's gospel and drawn to put their trust in him.

### The Funeral of Jean Pearson

- This is on Friday at 1pm. Thank God for her life and pray for those who now mourn her.
- Please pray especially for her daughter and granddaughter who live in the USA and are sadly unable to attend because of covid complications.

### Those who are unwell

- Dave Gill recovering from a broken leg, Doreen Brook, Roy Womack, Evelyn Coulson, Norman Jackson, Olwyn Scarffe and anyone else known to you.
- Those currently recovering from covid.

### Those in leadership positions

- Helen Hayward and Andrew White (Church Wardens) and Helen Kean (Deputy Church Warden)
- Anna De Castro (Children, Youth & Families Worker)
- Chris Tufnell (Vicar)
- The PCC, next meeting for a morning away on Saturday 15th January.
- Pray for our various ministry teams and their leaders, serving diligently and often in the background.
  - Spotlight: Safeguarding Team – Stuart Robinson, Anna De Castro, Lynsey Frost.

## 2. Pray for any specific needs or requests among your group

## 3. Christianity Explored Course, starting 17th Jan

### Thank God for:

- Five guests currently signed up to come on the course. Thank God for what he has already been doing in their lives to bring them to this point.
- The opportunity to share the gospel with people in this way.

### Pray for:

- The leaders of this course meeting (Chris Tufnell, Danny Pass, Pete and Jackie Shapland) as we meet for leaders training on Monday 10th Jan. That this

would be a helpful, encouraging and equipping time.

- Just the right people and number of people to sign up, attend and feel relaxed and welcome.
- Good friendships to be formed.
- Guests to stick with the whole course.
- Guests to read Mark's gospel between meetings.
- Everyone to come to or be strengthened in a personal faith in Jesus.
- Those providing catering to be strengthened, encouraged and kept safe.

5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

## 4. Our Nation

### Covid

- Praise God that Omicron appears to be a milder illness than previous variants.
- Pray that the NHS would be able to cope over the coming weeks.
- Pray that early in 2022 the public health situation would stabilise and allow restrictions to be further eased.
- Pray that the legacy of covid would be to diminish or remove our cultural blindness to the reality of death.

## 5. The Suffering Church – Haiti

Haiti suffered two natural disasters in quick succession in August 2021. It was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that killed around 2,200 people and destroyed over 37,000 homes. Two days later the impoverished island was lashed by a tropical storm, which caused flooding in the already devastated south-west and destroyed thousands more homes. Many churches, vital centres of local communities, were reduced to ruins.

In December the remaining twelve members of a group of 17 Christian missionaries and children abducted by an armed gang in Haiti in October escaped from their captors. The missionaries were abducted by the notorious 400 Mawozo gang, known for carrying out kidnappings and killings in the region.

## 6. God's Global Mission

### Introducing a new mission partnership: Galeed House

Galeed House is a community centre in Darnall, a mainly Muslim area of Sheffield. They employ a men's outreach worker and part time manager; all other workers are volunteers, including some members of OPC. Galeed House offers free English lessons to both men and women, a ladies sewing drop-in and lunch club, kids and youth clubs and other occasional activities aiming to build friendships within the local community. The outreach worker is also a member of a local faith forum and has regular meetings with leaders of local mosques. It exists to help people from different backgrounds and cultures build relationships of trust and friendship in which life issues and matters of faith can be freely shared.

### Thank God for:

- Our recent, new partnership with Galeed House.
- Our mission partnerships with Panshak Panbish (in Jos, Nigeria) and Julian and Beth Baalbergen (church planting in France).

### Leaders

- The Queen and government to lead the country with wisdom and justice and that they would preserve the freedom for Christians to share the gospel.
- For Christian leaders around the country to be bold in pointing the nation back to faith in Jesus Christ.

### Economic and Social Hardship

- For those suffering most from the pandemic and its economic effects to be provided for.
- For Christians to be engaged with caring for the practical needs of the nation.

### Pray for:

- Suffering Christians to continue to trust in the Lord for provision and the rebuilding of their lives and to witness to others as they do so.
- The rebuilding of that country, including many church buildings.
- Praise the Lord that the twelve remaining missionaries have escaped and that all are now free. Give thanks to God for sustaining them in the dark hours of captivity, and for their trust in the Lord's deliverance. Pray they would receive the privacy and rest they need to recover from their ordeal and resume their lives.

### Pray for:

- Panshak, his wife Esther and their children. (1) For him to remain committed to the gospel of Jesus. (2) For more opportunities for the gospel. (3) For financial provision for many needs. (4) For protection from jihadists who attack churches and incite division.
- The Baalbergens (joining a church planting team in France with the mission agency 'WorldTeam'):
  - Praise God that they have finally been granted visas and have moved to France, near Paris.
  - Pray that their language course, which began on 3rd Jan, would advance their ability to communicate the gospel clearly.
  - Pray for relationships with their team to develop and strengthen quickly.
  - Pray each member of the family would develop at least one really good and spiritually nourishing Christian friendship.

## Song: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Please note: The next Church Family Prayer meeting will be on Wednesday 9th February.**