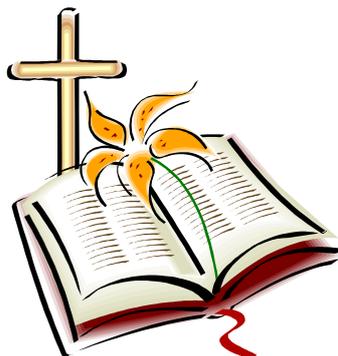


**THOUGHTS FOR  
PRAYER AND  
REFLECTION**

**January 2019**

**You are love, charity; You are wisdom,  
You are humility,  
You are patience. You are beauty,  
You are meekness,  
You are security, You are rest,  
You are gladness and joy,  
You are our hope, You are justice,  
You are moderation,  
You are all our riches to sufficiency....  
You are our eternal life..  
Great and wonderful Lord,  
Almighty God,  
Merciful Saviour.**



1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus:</b> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. <i>Galatians 4: 4-8</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Basil of Caesarea (d.379) and Gregory of Nazianzus (d.389), bishops and teachers; Eliza Hassal pioneer of CMS (Australia) &amp; missionary training (d.1917):</b> Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me. <i>Psalm 86:6-7</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <i>1 John 3:11</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. <i>Ralph Waldo Emerson (d.1882)</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Epiphany of our Lord:</b> When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. <i>Matthew 2:10-12</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. <i>1 John 3:23-24</i>
8 <sup>th</sup>	Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <i>1 John 4:7-8</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <i>1 John 4:11-12</i>
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d.1645):</b> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. <i>1 John 4:21</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Apologies are the art of spiritual housekeeping. They help to put and keep our lives in order. <i>Julia Cameron: God is No Laughing Matter</i>
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. <i>Psalm 29:2</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Baptism of our Lord:</b> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever. <i>Psalm 111:10</i>
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sava, first archbishop of the Serbian Church (d.1235):</b> Your mind should be full of love of God, forgetful of yourself. <i>Venerable Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916)</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand. <i>Psalm 37:23-24</i>
16 <sup>th</sup>	Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. <i>Hebrews 2:18</i>

17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Anthony of Egypt, abbot (d.356):</b> And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow. <i>G K Chesterton</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Confession of Peter:</b> Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. <i>Proust</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." <i>Psalms 46:10</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Second Sunday after Epiphany:</b> The infant Christ received gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds at the beginning of this year. Lord of glory, hear our prayer.
21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Agnes, martyr at Rome, virgin (d.304):</b> Each human being, however small or weak, has something to bring to humanity. As we start to really get to know others, as we begin to listen to each other's stories, things begin to change. We begin the movement from exclusion to inclusion, from fear to trust, from closedness to openness, from judgment and prejudice to forgiveness and understanding. It is a movement of the heart. <i>Jean Vanier</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Vincent, deacon and martyr (d.304):</b> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever. <i>Psalms 111:10</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Everything is a gift. The degree to which we are awake to this truth is a measure of our gratefulness and gratefulness is the measure of our aliveness. <i>Br David Steindl-Rast (b.1926)</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Companions of Paul, including Timothy, Titus and Silas:</b> I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth. <i>Psalms 57:9-11</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	Charity begins at home, but should not end there. <i>Thomas Fuller (1608-1551)</i>
26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Australia Day:</b> We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. <i>Amen</i>
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Third Sunday after Epiphany:</b> Father, use us, unworthy as we are, to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace. Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son, that all our joy and delight may be to serve you,
28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thomas Aquinas, theologian (d.1274):</b> If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it. <i>William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Not all men are called to be hermits, but all men need enough silence and solitude in their lives to enable the deep inner voice of their own true self to be heard at least occasionally. <i>Thomas Merton</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Charles, King of England (d.1649):</b> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. <i>Amen and Amen</i>
31 <sup>st</sup>	It's hard to remember that Jesus did not come to make us safe, but rather to make us disciples, citizens of God's new age, a kingdom of surprise. <i>Stanley Hauerwas (b.1940)</i>

# PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday** Loving God, help us to have courage to follow your call, to ask questions and to express our doubts, to laugh in the face of the impossible, to see you in the face of every stranger and, finally, to do your will just because it is. *Amen*
- Monday** God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we praise you for your unequalled greatness. Thank you for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more; to teach those we love to laugh by laughing with them; to teach others to love by loving them.
- Tuesday** Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father makes us and all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. *Amen*
- Wednesday** Almighty God, give us such a vision of your purpose, and such an assurance of your love and power, that we may ever hold fast to the hope which is Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. *Amen*
- Thursday** Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night; so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Leonine Sacramentary, 6th century*
- Friday** Lord, help me to see the small and mundane as worthy of my commitment to you. *Amen*
- Saturday** Lord, give me the courage to invest everything I have and everything I am in the great adventure of life in you. *Amen*



***Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection***  
for our *city on a hill*... and beyond.

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**Our church is open every day,  
providing a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.**

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