

## Ely Cathedral Prayers 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**ZOOM DETAILS: 10.30am      MEETING ID: 852 0929 8628      PASSCODE 080127**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8IuyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

Good morning and welcome to our prayer time today.

Let us begin by saying The Mothers' Union Prayer together:

**Loving Lord,**

**We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.**

**We pray for families around the world.**

**Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.**

**Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.**

**In Jesus', name. Amen**

The theme for this month's Thursday Prayers is Patience.

**Reading: James 5: 7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **Reflection**

In the reading we are told to think of the farmer who has to be patient and wait for the appropriate conditions to achieve the growth of his crop. Nothing he can do will speed the process it will happen in due time and however frustrating it may be no amount of pacing or grumbling will change matters.

Patience is a virtue we are told and it is sometimes very difficult to be patient. I recently broke my ankle and have found the time of healing very hard to come to terms with. However, it made me realise what being patient means. In fact, I think that having to actually stop and not be able to drive, walk without aids and carry out my usual duties in the Parish, have made me take stock. It has also helped me to empathise with others who have difficulty accessing things that I have previously taken for granted. I was fortunate to be able to borrow a wheelchair, however I noticed that everyone began to speak to me very kindly, but very slowly or they addressed my husband. I do not criticise their thoughtfulness and their well-meaning, but it made me wonder if I was guilty of assumptions about people. However, they were never impatient towards me, for which I was very grateful and, in the hustle and bustle of everyday life their patience was to be applauded.

Advent is a time of reflection and patience leading to the birth of Christ and all the celebration that comes with the Christmas season. It is so hard for children to be patient, as Christmas approaches, when decorations appear what seems earlier and earlier each year. Advertisements appear on television for the latest toy or electronic device. As a child I remember that Christmas cards and decorations did not appear until after Bonfire Night, now you are lucky if they are not available by the beginning of September, in fact I believe I received my Mothers' Union Catalogue including Christmas cards in mid to late August.

There is a certain pleasure in waiting for something, as the anticipation gives an additional joy. Saving up for something not only brings satisfaction as you reach your goal, it also gives you an extra feeling of achievement. If it is something for yourself, you also seem to value it more. Nothing that comes easily ever seems as valuable or worthwhile, which is where patience comes in.

Two of those, in the Bible, who chose incredible patience were Anna and Simeon who waited patiently for the coming of the Messiah and when at long last they saw Jesus in the Temple, they could die in peace. They had waited patiently knowing that the Lord would keep his promise however long it takes.

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him”. Psalm 37 verse 7. Let us try during this Advent not to rush around being caught up in hectic preparations for Christmas, running from shop to shop losing the real purpose. Let us try to remember those who are lonely and who find Christmas difficult, because they have suffered a loss at this time of the year, for those less financially able who find this a challenging time, or for those who are struggling to manage physically and therefore cannot attend services or have a family celebration. Let us hold them in our prayers and maybe send a card or offer transport or other support. May we not forget what we are preparing to celebrate, that a baby was born in humble circumstances to an unworldly young woman in the most basic of environments and yet changed the World. Let us patiently reflect during this Advent, so that we can rejoice when Christmas arrives.

Let us pray

God of hope be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, be with us in our meeting and in our travelling together, be with us in our worship and our praying together, be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, our God of hope.  
**Amen**

Lord, as we prepare for your coming at Bethlehem, we watch with patience. As the Word became flesh and lived and moved among us, so we search for you, that in finding you we may respond with hearts and minds to that Love, born of Mary; to the Word made flesh, swelling in us, so that we may dwell in him. **Amen**  
From “The Little Book of Advent”

God our saviour and our redeemer, whose coming birth still shakes the foundations of our world, may your coming fill us with such excitement and hope that we embrace without fear the labour pangs of a new time, a new earth through Jesus Christ. **Amen**  
From MU “The Prayers we breathe”

Lord, we watch and wait for your reign of peace.

We pray for Jerusalem and the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and all the conflicts around the world. As the world is in such turmoil, we ask for your help for those who are suffering. We particularly hold before you the children and young people, who have seen such atrocities. May they reach safety and find the love and support that they need. May all nations lay aside the ways of darkness and put on the armour of light.  
**Amen**

We pray for those who are sick, particularly those who are lonely, despairing and struggling to survive in the present economic climate. May they feel the support from our prayers and the knowledge that they are not alone and they are valued. **Amen**

Our heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer; that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds.

So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**We will have a moment of silence to focus on our own prayers.**

We now sing the hymn: **Hark the glad sound.**

1. Hark, the glad sound! the saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne  
and every voice a song.
2. On him the Holy Spirit pours  
the promised sacred fire;  
his power and wisdom, zeal and love  
the anointed Son inspire.
3. He comes the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
4. He comes to cleanse the human mind  
from thickest scales of sin,  
and by the entrance of his words  
give light and life within.
5. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the wounded soul to heal,  
and in his gospel to the poor  
God's riches to reveal.

*P. Doddridge, 1702-51*

*Melody from Ravenscroft's Psalter, 1621*

### **From the MU Annual Prayer Diary for December**

Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we await in anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets "behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son", may we be ready at his birth, to recognize the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve him. **Amen**

### **From our Prayer Diary for the 11<sup>th</sup> of "December.**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus." **Amen**

Philippians 4: 6-7

**Our Intercessions** - We pray for:

The worldwide work of the Mothers Union, our Worldwide President Kathleen Snow. For all those who work at Mary Sumner House, supporting members.

Our province of Canterbury and all the members of the Canterbury Province and our Provincial President Comfort Fearon.

We pray for our whole Diocese, for our Diocesan Vice Presidents, Hazel, Jean and Debbie for those on the Trustee Board and those leading branches, those working in the Task groups, our deaneries, our chaplains and our members. We pray for events being held in the parishes.

**In the Wave of Prayer:** 10 – 12 December

Lusaka in Zambia; Shyogwe in Rwanda; Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria; Ely in England and Karimnagar in India.

Let us say together The Mothers' Union Thursday prayer:

**Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers, we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Before we say the Grace, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year and thank you for your friendship and fellowship throughout the year.

Let us say together **The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen**