

# Prayer Points from 24 December - 18 January

## Christmas and New Year

- Thanksgiving and praise to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day, through which he brought light into the darkness (John 1:1–14).
- That we, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, magnify (glorify; praise highly) the Lord and rejoice in God our Saviour, as we remember his birth this Christmas season (Luke 1:46-47).
- That we may glorify God in whatever we do, as we look forward to the New Year, and review the past year, and consider how we may better bear the fruits of faith (Luke 3:8, 1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Thanksgiving to God for establishing King David's throne forever, from whom our Lord Jesus Christ has descended (1 Samuel 7:16).

## Regarding Natural Disasters and Conflicts

- For all the people experiencing natural disasters or their threat (Psalm 29:10).
- That God would bring peace and protection to the people in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, many parts of Africa (such as Ethiopia), the Middle East, and any other part of the world that is experiencing the grief and pain of war, civil unrest and oppression (Isaiah 9:7).

## For the Sundays of January – in addition to the above, and drawing on the Prayer of the Church and other relevant themes

- Thanks to God for disclosing to us the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ through the apostles' witness found in the prophetic writings (Romans 16:25-27).
- For God's protection over all families who are travelling throughout the holidays, and that God would give them refreshment during their breaks from work or study (Psalm 121).
- That God guides our government, so that it may deal with the world's problems wisely, prioritise those who are truly in need, and promote godly virtues (Romans 13:1–7).
- That God blesses and protects our emergency services workers, as they risk their lives and wellbeing for the sake of others (Acts 20:25).
- That God comforts the sick and the poor, with his light and his truth (Psalm 43:5), and that they learn to trust in the power of prayer, because of God, who answers us according to his will (James 5:13-16).
- That God fills the body of Christ, the Church, with the Holy Spirit, so that it stands as a light on a hill for others to see and know that in the Church they can experience God and his light (Matthew 5:14-16; John 13:35; Ephesians 3:14–21; 5:23).
- For God's guidance for the Lutheran Church of Australia as it faithfully serves Him to proclaim the good news to the poor, the release of the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind and to set free those who are oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18-19).
- For the sick or unwell and their carers, including Mel Bishop, Robert Coombe, Graeme Elphick, Ron Koelman, Roma Linke, Pam Mibus, Gina Mielke, Bobby Ray Miller Milne, Roy Minge, Karina Musimbi, Nick Urbon, Dale Voigt, Robert Walden and Cheryl Zucker (Isaiah 41:10).