

**PRAYERS for January 23, 2022 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Worship Assistant:** Please remain standing for the prayers. On this third Sunday after the Epiphany, 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:** Mighty God, in Your hands are all things in heaven and on earth. We come to You this morning with thankfulness, joy, and praise. We are grateful to You for providing us with not only our daily bread to nourish our bodies but also with Your heavenly food to feed our souls. It is such a joy to sing Your praises and to lift our hearts to You in prayer. We thank You for the privilege of worship, the honor of Your presence, and the glory of Your Word. Help us always to seek Your face and to walk in Your light. You are our rock and our redeemer.

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

**Worship Assistant:** Father God, build up the Body of Christ in our Word of God congregation. Help us to accept, develop, and share the gifts that You have given each of us. Teach us to encourage and rejoice in the gifts of others, whether those gifts seem small or great. Let all be done to glorify You and to share Your mercy with those around us. We ask Your blessing on the members of the Service Committee who are being installed this morning. We know that their work will be good because Your hand will be on it.

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

**Worship Assistant:** Gracious God, You are our refuge and our fortress. We thank You that You bless us and bring us through all our stages of life. We pray today for the babies, children, and youth who need us to love, care, teach, and lead them on Your paths. We ask You to be with people in all the adult times of life and guide them in the way You would have them go. We also pray today for the senior citizens in nursing homes, in assisted living residences, and those living independently. Let them know that You are always with them. We especially pray for all Your sheep who are in the end stages of life on this earth. Take them into Your arms and peacefully lead them to Your side.

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

**Worship Assistant:** God of mercy, in every situation we come to You with humble trust. We thank You that we can call on You in our times of doubt and need. We thank You that we can receive Your help and comfort in our hours of loneliness, suffering, illness, and sorrow. You are with us when our lives have bright days and when we have dark moments. We are thankful for the lives You give us and appreciate our own health and safety in greater measure and safeguard it as a precious gift. Continue to heal all the people who have been attacked by the virus. We ask You to watch over all those who are on our prayer list and our families and friends 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:** Almighty God, we ask You to guide, strengthen, and keep safe all those who must take up arms to protect the innocent and the persecuted, establish safety and justice, and defend life and liberty. Be with all the first responders who rescue Your children from dangers and disasters. Grant wisdom, integrity, and common sense to our leaders so that we may live peacefully, work fruitfully, and enjoy the many blessings and gifts which You have provided for the benefit of all. **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.