

Together We Pray

SUNDAY 28 January 2024, The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple / 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: for The Presentation: Malachi 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

OR for 4 Epiphany: Deut 18:15-20; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Let us pray for the church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

God of life, we pray for places of trouble and distress

For women and men caught in abuse or hardship, that help lifts them

We pray for victims of natural and human disasters

And those responding to their plight

*God of love, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for people and wildlife living in places at risk

For the seas, rivers and lands, our inheritance to pass on

For all places needing sun or rain, comfort and peace

*God of love, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for the faith to hold on, though the waters may rise

For an awareness of beauty in simple things:

A beautiful day, a friend's return, a safe arrival... a moment of forgiveness

We pray for the quiet after storms, for healing after illness

For peace in places of conflict: Gaza, Palestine, Israel, the Congo, Ukraine

So that the world and its children may know a gentler time

*God of love, **hear our prayer.***

God of all, you came as a small child into the world's turmoil and grace

Be near, and dwell with us; hear our prayers for those struggling to believe

We pray for our bishop, +Justin, and all who minister in our parishes, shops and city streets

That we may serve one another, and spread God's light a little further

'Til darkness has no claim on our souls, and we become agents of His light.

*God of love, **hear our prayer.***

Sources: NRSV Bible; NZ Prayer Book; NEB Starr, original prayers.