



# Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Christmas I

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## Prayers and Readings for this Sunday

**Collect** Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Isaiah 63. 7-9** I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Psalm 148** 1 O praise the Lord of heaven : praise him in the height. 2 Praise him, all ye angels of his : praise him, all his host. 3 Praise him, sun and moon : praise him, all ye stars and light. 4 Praise him, all ye heavens : and ye waters that are above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord : for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created. 6 He hath made them fast for ever and ever : he hath given them a law which shall not be broken. 7 Praise the Lord upon earth : ye dragons, and all deeps; 8 Fire and hail, snow and vapours : wind and storm, fulfilling his word; 9 Mountains and all hills : fruitful trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle : worms and feathered fowls; 11 Kings of the earth and all people : princes and all judges of the world; 12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord : for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth. 13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him : even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

**Hebrews 2. 10–18** It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**Matthew 2. 13–23** After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

**Post–Communion Collect** Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# Notices

A huge thank you to everyone who has worked hard throughout Advent and into Christmas arranging flowers, serving refreshments, cleaning, stewarding, serving, singing, ringing and all other behind the scenes work, seen and unseen. So many have worked incredibly hard to create a very special season—thank you for all your time and talents.

**New Year's Day.** There will be a Eucharist at 10am at St Andrew's, Colyton, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January to mark the beginning of a new year. All welcome.

**Calling all singers!** For the Feast of the Epiphany, we are joining with the South Wessex Organ Society for a candlelit service of Vespers with Gregorian chant, gentle incense and seasonal organ music. The service will be in St Andrew's, Colyton next Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> January) at 6.30pm followed by refreshments. If you would like to sing (no experience of Gregorian chant required), please get in touch with Fr Steven (rector@hollyford.org). There will be rehearsals in St Andrew's on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan (9.30–11am) and Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jan (4pm, followed by tea before the service).

**An introduction to a life of more...** Start your year with something that matters. Join us for three relaxed Saturday mornings as we explore the Beatitudes—Jesus' surprising, upside-down vision for a life of meaning, courage and blessing. Saturdays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January at the Sunday School Building in Colyton 10am to 12 noon. Warm, welcoming, and designed especially for adults who are curious, re-exploring faith, or simply wanting a fresh start after Christmas. Leaflets will be available in the churches. Each session is £5 to cover costs.

*Fr Steven and the Ministry Team wish you all a very Happy Christmas and thank you for your kind messages, cards and gifts. They are very much appreciated.*

*Your Prayers this week are asked:*

<b>Sunday</b>	For children suffering in places of persecution and conflict
<b>Monday</b>	For peace in our hearts and our homes
<b>Tuesday</b>	For Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury elect
<b>Wednesday</b>	For those who are lonely or anxious for the future
<b>Thursday</b>	In thanksgiving for a God who knows our name
<b>Friday</b>	For those returning to work
<b>Saturday</b>	For new parents and their families

# Services and Events this week and next Sunday

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Christmas I</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Michael's, Colyford
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Giles', Northleigh
	6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Holy Innocents</i>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> <i>The Naming &amp; Circumcision of Jesus</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	New Year's Day Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <i>Basil the Great</i>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Friendly Friday, St Andrew's, Colyton
	8.30pm	Sung Compline, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Vespers Rehearsal, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Musbury
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Giles's, Northleigh
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	3.30pm	Village Praise, St Michael's, Colyford
	4.00pm	Vespers Rehearsal, St Andrew's, Colyton
	6.30pm	Epiphany Vespers, St Andrew's, Colyton