

SERMON NOTES

2nd Sunday after Christmas * January 5, 2025

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Jeremiah 31:7-14 * Psalm 84 * Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a *

Matthew 2:1-12

You Could Pray

On May 1, 1979...

If nothing else: "Thy will be done on earth in as it is in heaven"

God helps us. He not only HEARS our prayers; he GIVES them to us.

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all his people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...

...the riches of God's glorious inheritance in his people...

... and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Father, thank you for this parish family and the love you planted in us.

Please give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so we may know Jesus better. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of your glorious inheritance in your people, and your incomparably great power for us who believe.
Amen!

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 43:1-7 * Psalm 29 * Acts 8:14-17 * Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, small group, or a friend

1. What's a good thing happened to you this past Christmas or New Years?
2. Who do you pray for regularly? What sorts of things do you pray?
3. What has happened recently that gave you a glimpse of God or deepened your faith, hope, or love?
4. Who in the Messiah family has helped or blessed you? And what did they do?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for that good thing you reported in #1 above.
 - ✦ Thanking God for that person you mentioned in #4 above.
 - ✦ For eyes and ears to see and hear God at work in the world around you.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.