

Sunday December 22, 2019 The 4th Sunday of Advent

"Peace"

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church to be a warm, welcoming community—regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout this guide.

Our worship is "liturgical." The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff *Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis*

Sunday Info

Nursery, Room 111 Children 4 – 24 months for the duration of the service

Children's, Church Room 112–113 Children ages 2 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.

Adult Ed Class No classes are currently meeting.

Accessibility A wheelchair ramp and elevator are on site. A greeter can assist you.

Coffee is available in the SE hallway at 10:15am and before Adult Ed classes when offered.

Reflection

The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets called shalom. We call it peace, but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight — a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things out to be.

- Cornelius Plantinga, Not the Way It's Supposed To Be

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY LENT EASTER PENTECOST ORDINARY TIME Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

GOD SUMMONS US AS HIS PEOPLE

As we meet together each week, we recognize in the preparation that God, through his word and Spirit, gathers us into his presence and calls us into his life and mission.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

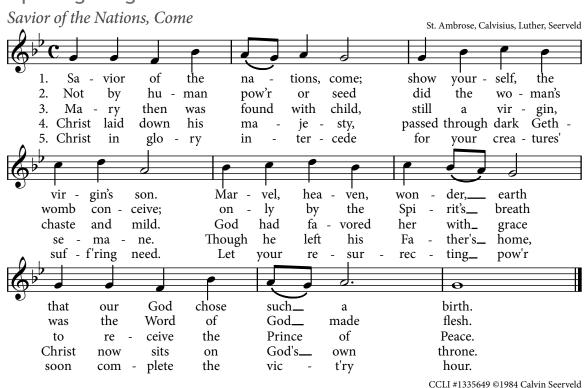
Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Opening Song

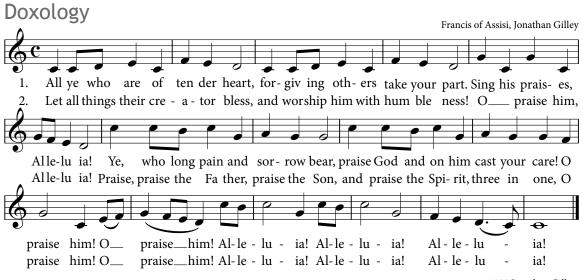


Opening of Worship

Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,
All and grant us your salvation.
We will listen to what God the Lord will say;
he promises peace to us, his people.
Surely his salvation is near,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Faithfulness springs up from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
Righteousness will go before him
and prepare the way for his steps.

from Psalm 85

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation



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GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

Throughout Scripture, when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness. In the same way, we make a confession of sin, *both as a community* and also silently as individuals. In this, we remember that God is always ready, by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom, yet we see conflict, war, and corruption. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament, to strengthen us in holiness, yet we know our weakness and our sin. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people; we long for your return. Lord, have mercy.

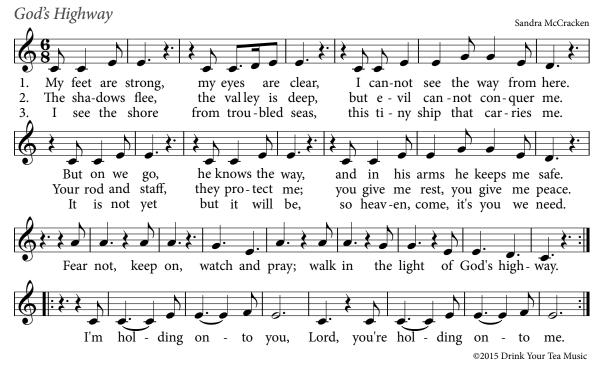
All Lord, have mercy.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May you know God's gracious presence. He is close to the broken, he forgives those crushed in Spirit. May his peace guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All Amen.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving



Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Rist, John Troutbeck, Johann Schop



Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. *All* And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. 1st - 5th graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities. Gospel reading: Luke 1:68-79

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. *All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

"Peace" - Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly. com/give. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give we're grateful simply for your presence here today. Having offered ourselves up in faith through the creed, affirming the power of God's redemption, we lift up the church, our world, and other needs to God in prayer for his provision and healing.

Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Lord God, ruler of nations, bring peace and justice to our divided world. We pray for those in lands ravaged by war. End fighting and oppression, heal wounds, return homes and property, comfort those grieving, and restore purpose in life. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus, creator and sustainer of all things, we mistreat and damage the environment. People face dangers: drought, fire, and storm. Bring rescue and restore harmony. Help us to be wise stewards of your creation, and sustain us with resources needed for life. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit of power and peace, we are easily divided by race, riches, varying opinions, and desire for power. Take away fear, envy, and revenge. Give us humility to love as we are loved, with generosity, welcome, and grace. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with,

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

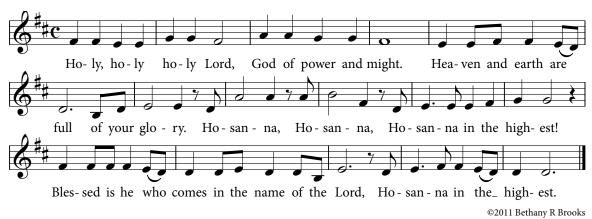
The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

Communion, also called the Lord's *Supper, is the family* meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus *Christ to participate. If you are not a* follower of Jesus or are not prepared to *share in the meal.* we encourage you to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included below). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your *relationship* with *Iesus Christ and with* his people, the church.

Sanctus



We use wine in Communion. Nonalcoholic white grape juice and a glutenfree option are also available if preferred. Please discard your Communion cup as you leave worship.

If you would like prayer for healing and anointing with oil, please come to the back of the room after you have been served, and an elder will pray for you. This will be a time of liturgical prayer; you will not be asked to share your particular situation. The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister speaks the Words of Institution.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. *All* Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

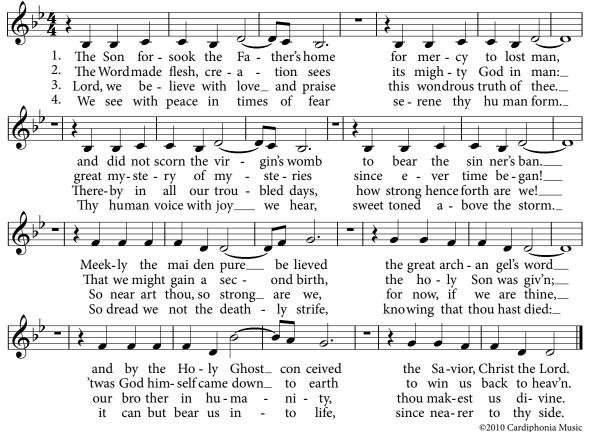
Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Communion Song

The Son Forsook the Father's Home

Samuel Stone, Bruce Benedict

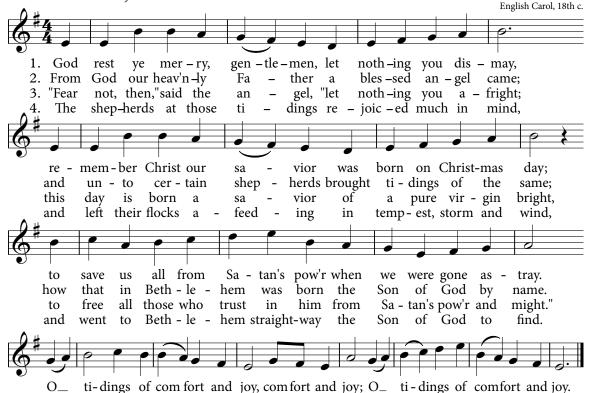


Prayer after Communion

All For this sign that you love us, for your gift of peace restored, Lord, we give you thanks. With your church in faith united, with our loved ones in glory, we wait for your return. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen



GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

We have responded to God's call, heard his word, offered ourselves to his service, and received strength at his table. Now, at the close of worship, God sends us out to carry forward the gospel story.

Benediction

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Liturgist: Jonathan Bassett Celebrant: Jonathan Davis

Bethany Danel Brooks: piano, voice Matt Engle: bass Nick Millevoi: guitar

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jona-than@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

West Philly

- 50th & Springfield, Tuesdays 7_{РМ} Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 52nd & Larchwood, Tuesdays 7рм Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30_{PM} Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49th & Baltimore, Thursdays 6_{РМ} Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30_{PM} Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com

Fairmount

- Ringgold & Poplar, Wednesdays 7рм Su Jin Kim, splujin@gmail.com
- 22nd & Poplar, Sundays 4_{РМ} Bonnie Currie, bonnie.currie@gmail.com

South Philly

 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30_{PM} Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

• Tuesdays 6:30PM Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

FAMILY MINISTRIES come alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry. Our children's classes use a gospel-centered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for details. Contact Amy Lee, amy@citychurchphilly. com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Eric Burrows-Stone, eric@citychurchphilly.com

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS The

Gathering is an intentional Community Group for college students from any university in West Philly that meets once a week for a (FREE) meal and topical discussion. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm in Houston Hall 225. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly. com.

55+ is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Miriam Wattenbarger, mwattenb@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK

STUDY Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

GROW

City Church is a community committed to

growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation|citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

GIVE

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

SERVE

We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city. Over the years, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit citychurchphilly.org/serve-city.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm & After Party at

Bartholomews', 6:30 – 9 pm Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24 at 5 pm at West Catholic. This service is a warm, family-friendly time of celebrating the birth of Christ. Please join us! And, if you don't need to rush somewhere else afterwards, plan to head to the Bartholomews' house (430 S. 47th St) for an After Party from 6:30 to 9 pm. Bring something to share!

Fireside Chats with Tuck, Book Study on Courage & Calling, and More! Jan Term is Coming... Jan Term begins Sunday, January 5. During this season, we break from our regularly scheduled community group meetings to make space for special classes and seminars. Registration is now open! To view the full list of options, visit citychurchphilly.com/jan-term.

Year-End Giving Match Has Been Met! Remaining Need is \$43K

Thank you all for your generous giving to City Church! Our \$80K year-end giving match has been met, leaving a gap of only \$43K left to fully fund our ministry. If you haven't yet participated, there's still time! You can give online at citychurchphilly.com/give.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 18 Seekers' Group
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm

December 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 Advent begins | 2 Officer nominations end | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Lessons & Carols, 5 pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Seekers' Group | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Staff

Tuck Bartholomew Senior Pastor tuck@citychurchphilly.com

Eric Burrows-Stone Youth Ministry eric@citychurchphilly.com

Dan Cason Sunday Volunteers dan@citychurchphilly.com

Chris Currie Site Pastor, Fairmount chris@citychurchphilly.com **Bethany Danel Brooks** Worship Director bethany@citychurchphilly.com

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Natalie Harvey University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com

Amy Lee Children's Program Administrator amy@citychurchphilly.com Anne Smith Children's Lead Teacher anne@citychurchphilly.com

Liz Voboril Communications Coordinator liz@citychurchphilly.com

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

Help us welcome you.

| Name(s): |
|---|
| Children & their ages: |
| If undergrad or grad student, school & year: |
| Address: |
| |
| |
| Phone number(s): |
| Email(s): |
| Please send me: Weekly Newsletter Morning & Evening Prayer |
| Please contact me about: |
| Community Groups |
| Neighborhood Service Opportunities |
| □ Volunteering on Sundays |
| □ Children's & Youth Ministries |
| Meeting with a Pastor |
| Other: |
| |

Prayer Requests

Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly on 4th Sundays. Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.

Please tear off this back page and place in the offering basket.

