

December 1

Watching

Psalm

*Do not put your trust in princes,
In mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
On that very day, their plans perish.*
Psalm 146:3

Meditation

We are commanded to watch for the Coming of the Son of Man, the great event of the future, and to be ready, lest he find us slumbering, or with lamps untrimmed or unsupplied with oil. The best state of readiness for the coming of Christ is eagerness to know and readiness to do his will.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 102

Scripture

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later, the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25: 10-13

Prayer

Good and faithful God, still my heart with patience. May I be ever watchful for your presence and the coming of your Son. Make me vigilant in time of temptation. Open my eyes to the needs of those around us. May I wait in silence for you, O God.

December 2

God Answers

Psalm

*I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.
I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.*
Psalm 3:5-6

Meditation

Does God really answer prayer in this age as he did in the ages when the Bible was being written? By the help of God and his word I can demonstrate fully, clearly, irresistibly, that God does hear and answer, and that our greatest need is the deep conviction that this is true, and thus one moves out into the bright, clear atmosphere of God's love and promises.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 11

Scripture

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Prayer

Lord God, answer me from your holy hill! Increase my trust in you and bring me to the clear atmosphere of your love.

December 3

Prayer

Psalm

*Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.*

Psalm 4:1

Meditation

A prayerless Christian, is, to the eye of reason, an absurdity, as it is to the eye of faith an impossibility. I could not imagine a prayerless Christian, any more than a breathless person. Prayer is but the Christian's breath. Without it, one cannot live or be happy a single day.

Alexander Campbell, *Millennial Harbinger* (1854), 552

Scripture

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

*He said to them, "It is written,
'My house shall be a house of prayer;'
but you are making it a den of robbers."*

Matthew 21:12-13

Prayer

O Christ who drove the moneychangers from the temple, drive from my heart all that keeps it from being a place of prayer. Lead me from the paths of greed, pride, and self-sufficiency. May my every breath be a prayer of trust in you. Be gracious and hear my prayer.

December 4

Expectation

Psalm

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?*

Psalm 13:1-2

Meditation

We *will*, that preachers and people, cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance; pray more and dispute less; and while they behold the signs of the times, look up, and confidently expect that redemption draweth nigh.

The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery (1804)

Scripture

But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

II Peter 3:13

Prayer

Father, in the midst of pain, I cry, "Your kingdom come!" Lord, Jesus, come quickly and bring the redemption of a new heaven and a new earth. How long, O Lord.

December 5

Strength

Psalm

*I love you, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies.*

Psalm 18:1-3

Meditation

Prayer is the means by which we receive the grace of God, and enjoy sweet communion with the Father and the Son. Enjoying this, we have communion one with another, and grow up into Christ our living head in all things.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1826), 236-237

Scripture

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Prayer

Father, strengthen my heart in holiness. Give me sweet communion with you and your precious Son, this day. I love you, O Lord my strength.

December 6

Prayer

Psalm

*I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.
Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
from the wicked who despoil me,
my deadly enemies who surround me.*

Psalm 17:6-9

Meditation

God must be pleased when, in self-forgetfulness and humility, we do as he expected us to do when he made us—bring all our needs before him and expect him to supply them.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 12-13.

Scripture:

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

Jude 24-25

Prayer

God, my Savior, I long to stand in your presence. Keep me from falling, supply my every need, and guard me as the apple of your eye.

December 7

Being with the Lord

Psalm

*The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"*
Psalm 116:3-4

Meditation

At the appointed time in the bright regions of eternal glory, we shall rejoin the loved and lost, where all sorrow shall be forgotten, all tears wiped away, all faithful love and fellowship restored, and where, amidst fullness of joy and spiritual blessedness, "we shall be forever with the Lord."
Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 113

Scripture

For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Prayer

God of life, I thank you that through the resurrection of Jesus, not even death can separate me from you or from those I love.

December 8

Adoration

Psalm

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.*

Psalm 115:1

Meditation

With what profound awe and reverence does the person of faith view all this!
How exalted are the conceptions and emotions in view of the wonderful works
of God; and how must one adore and admire the almighty hand that has lifted
up and made one acquainted with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord-our only hope! Let us learn to reverence, adore, and praise him forever
and ever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 30-31

Scripture

*To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call
and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our
Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and
the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Prayer

Glorious Father, Loving Lord, and Holy Spirit, may I glorify your name, not
my own this day. I rejoice in your steadfast love and faithfulness. By your power,
complete the good works I resolve to do.

December 9

Coming of the Lord

Psalm

*But the Lord sits enthroned forever, he has established his throne for judgment.
He judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with equity.
The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

Psalm 9:7-10

Meditation

Every disciple of the Master is under the most solemn obligations to do what lies in his power to hasten the time when "all the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ."

J. H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 115

Scripture

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

Revelation 1:5-8

Prayer

Father, I bow before your righteous throne. Give me faith to see your reign in the world today. Rule in my heart. May I know that you will never forsake me.
Make me your priest to those I meet.

December 10

Communion with God

Psalm

*I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.*

Psalm 26:6-8

Meditation

When a soul comes to itself, it at once begins to relish God's word, and to long for fellowship and communion with him. It will avail itself of private prayer and will not neglect the public worship of God. How sweet are the songs of Zion to a heart that thirsts for God!

J. H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 29

Scripture

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40

Prayer

Loving God, my heart thirsts for your presence. May I long to live in your house and worship at your altar. Let my love for you, the love you have poured into my heart, overflow into love for my neighbor.

December 11

Suffering

Psalm

*O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.
Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all day long.*
Psalm 38:9, 11

Meditation

In taking part of flesh and blood, Jesus partook of our infirmities, and bore our weaknesses, as, in his own body, he bore our sins. Had he not assumed our nature, he could not have borne our griefs or carried our sorrows. He was, indeed, “crucified through weakness,” yet it was at that moment of extremest weakness that he gained the victory.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 84-85

Scripture

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Prayer

Dear Father, thank for sending your Son in the flesh to share my weaknesses.
Keep me steadfast and faithful in the face of suffering.

December 12

The Weightier Matters

Psalm

*Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.
The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak justice.
The law of their God is in their hearts; their steps do not slip.*

Psalm 37:23-24, 30-31

Meditation

Those who would interpret the oracles of God to the salvation to the salvation of their souls, must approach this volume with the humility and docility of a child, and meditate upon it day and night. Like Mary, they must sit at the Master's feet and listen to the words that fall from his lips.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 18

Scripture

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"

Matthew 23:23-24

Prayer

Holy God, may your word be the constant meditation of my heart. May I practice the whole of your instruction, particularly justice, mercy, and faith. Do not allow my steps to falter this day.

December 13

Dependence on God

Psalm

*You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.*

Psalm 31:3-5

Meditation

Prayer allays the passions, promotes the virtues, and harmonizes all the powers and faculties of the soul. It subdues the human will and makes the will of God the supreme law of the universe.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 19-20

Scripture

But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

Prayer

Faithful Lord, my rock, fortress, and refuge, protect me from harm this day.
Mold my will to yours. May I keep your commands this day, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Direct my heart to your love and steadfastness, through Christ.

December 14

Kingdom

Psalm

*O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.*

Psalm 43:3-4

Meditation

We believe that all are bound to submit to the government and laws of Jesus, the Lord of all. Let Christians show by their peaceful, holy lives, that his laws are sufficient to govern the whole world in peace and love.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 125-126

Scripture

And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:13-14

Prayer

Father, may your kingdom come! Even now may you alone reign in my heart. Do not let my love for you grow cold. I praise you, my God, at the altar where Jesus was sacrificed for me. Lord Jesus, come quickly!

December 15

The Work of Christ

Psalm

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.*

Psalm 103:2-4

Meditation

How perfect, then, in power, how complete in fullness is the work of Christ.

How far-reaching the consequences of his death, and how glorious the salvation he accomplishes by his life. How precious the assurances of his mercy, faithfulness, and truth. How blessed the hope of his return.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 128

Scripture

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

Prayer

Living God, I bless you for the most precious gift of your Son. May I never forget your love and mercy shown to me by Christ. Today, my Lord, forgive, heal, and redeem me.

December 16

Trials

Psalm

Because of you we are being killed all day long, and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
Psalm 44:22

Meditation

How manifold and various are the tribulations that assail us here! What a splendid philosophy is that which Christian faith lays hold of, by which all these seeming calamities and adversities are transformed into so many kind providential agencies designed to promote our spiritual growth and development!

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 108

Scripture

Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

Revelation 3:10-12

Prayer

My God, give me endurance for the trials I face today. Give me courage to suffer for your name. Give me faith to see my tribulations as a blessing.

December 17

Victory

Psalm

*As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God, which God establishes forever.
We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.
Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.*

Psalm 48:9-10

Meditation

Tyrants and imposter, priests and princes have ever enslaved the souls and bodies. But Christ has come to the rescue and will put down all at last.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 119

Scripture

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 3:20-21

Prayer

Father, you are ruler of the universe; Christ, you are the conqueror of the world. Through your Holy Spirit, grant me victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

December 18

Delight in God's Word

Psalm

*It is good for me that I was humbled, so that I might learn your statutes.
The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

Psalm 119:71-72

Meditation

Take, then, the teaching, the divine and infallible teaching of Jesus and the apostles, read it, fill your memory with it, cherish it in your heart, meditate on it, delight in it, and love it, and follow it with all your whole mind and strength, and it will guide you peacefully, joyfully, and happily home to the haven of everlasting rest.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 203

Scripture

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

*"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Mark 1:1-3

Prayer

This day, O Lord, may your word be in my heart, on my lips, and in my hands. May the good news of Jesus fill my life today. Humble me, O God, before your glorious throne.

December 19

The Holy Spirit

Psalm

*Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*
Psalm 33:20-22

Meditation

The Holy Spirit is, then, the author of all our holiness; and in the struggle for victory over sin and temptation, “he helps our infirmities,” and comforts us by seasonably bringing to our remembrance the promises of Christ, and “strengthens us with all might, in the new or inner person.” Christians are, therefore, clearly and unequivocally temples of the Holy Spirit; and they are quickened, animated, encouraged, and sanctified by the power of the Spirit of God, working in them through the truth.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 66

Scripture

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Matthew 3:11

Prayer

Father God, strengthen me inwardly today through your Holy Spirit. May I patiently wait and trust in your steadfast love. Make me holy as you are holy.

December 20

Praise

Psalm

*I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.*

Psalm 40:9-10

Meditation

And, hence, the most pious have always been the most regular and constant in their family devotions. Indeed, we have never seen any very strong indications of vital piety where family worship has been neglected.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 35

Scripture

When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.”

Revelation 3:8-10

Prayer

Awesome God, may I praise you this day at home, at work, and in the great congregation of the saints present, past, and future. Christ, you are worthy!

December 21

Being Known by God

Psalm

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Psalm 139:1-3

Meditation

Christian reader, do you want to grow in grace? Do you want to make rapid progress in the divine life? Then retire to your closet at least three times every day; and let the burden of your prayer be, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me: and lead me in the way everlasting."

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 77

Scripture

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

Prayer

Father, you know me better than I know myself. Keep me from self deception.
Keep me in your love, grace, and mercy. In your Holy Spirit, I pray
that you will lead me to life eternal.

December 22

Seeing God

Psalm

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.
They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.*

Psalm 24:3-5

Meditation

Then we shall see him as he is, face to face, and not through the veil of mortal flesh. The word “to see” frequently means to enjoy. In this sense the pure in heart enjoy their God on earth, through faith, and are as happy as mortality can bear.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 232

Scripture

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

John 3:16, 21

Prayer

Father, thank you for giving me clean hands and a pure heart through the gift of your Son. May this amazing blessing light my path today.

December 23

Hearing God

Psalm

*Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all according to their work.*

Psalm 62:11-12

Meditation

Amidst the din of all arguments from the flesh, the world, and Satan, a person is so deaf that one cannot hear the still small voice of God's philanthropy.

But, receding from pride, covetousness, and false ambition; from the love of the world; and in coming within that circle, the circumference of which is unfeigned humility, and the center of which is God himself—the voice of God is distinctly heard and clearly understood.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 18

Scripture

And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

John 5:37-38

Prayer

O God, I wait for you in silence. I wait in faith and humility. May I hear your voice, today, through your Son and my Savior, Jesus.

December 24

The Birth of Christ

Psalm

*Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*
Psalm 117

Meditation

In taking part of flesh and blood, Jesus partook of our infirmities, and bore our weaknesses, as, in his own body, he bore our sins. It is not in his maturer years merely that we are to behold the man Jesus Christ. It is rather in the feeble infant in its unrocked cradle, the helpless Christ-child, nurtured upon a mother's bosom.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 84-85

Scripture

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:30-33

Prayer

I praise you, Father, for sending your Son to be born of Mary to show your steadfast love.

December 25

Theme: God With Us

Psalm

*I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.*
Psalm 2:7-8

Meditation

As Immanuel, he has brought God near to us; as the express image of the Father, he has truly revealed him; as God manifested in the flesh, he is love impersonated.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 13

Scripture

*But 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.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.*
Micah 5:2, 4

Prayer

Father God, I thank you for coming in the flesh, in the person of your Son, Jesus. Turn my heart to that child in the manger who is in reality the ruler of the world.

December 26

Good News to the Poor

Psalm

*Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.*

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 113:5-9

Meditation

Be an example in charity, or love, not in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth, by administering of your goods to the poor and needy. The salvation of their souls is equal to the kings of the earth.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 259

Scripture

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1:52-53

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to feed the hungry, lift the lowly, and exalt the poor. Work in me this day to bring good news to those in need. Feed the hungry. House the homeless. Heal the sick. Raise the dead.

December 27

The New Jerusalem

Psalm

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:1-3

Meditation

And whether the righteous remain forever in the New Jerusalem, on the newly renovated earth, or wing their way as messengers of love and mercy to worlds unknown, the same gracious hand that conducted them through their earthly pilgrimage will ever lead them to fountains of living waters, and wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 577

Scripture

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light,

and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth

will bring their glory into it.

Revelation 21:22-24

Prayer

Father, this day bind my wounds, heal my broken heart, light my way, and gather me into your presence. Lord Jesus, come quickly and bring the New Jerusalem.

December 28

Christ the King

Psalm

*The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world;
it shall never be moved;
your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.*

Psalm 93:1-2

Meditation

Reader, it is not the epic of Christianity or its drama chiefly that we are called to contemplate with affection and reverence, but its hero—the Lord Messiah.

He is the diadem of revelation, its miter and its crown, and the basis of Messianic worship is laid down by the Most High when he installed him in the great mission of Redemption—My Son.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 242

Scripture

*But there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams,
where no galley with oars can go, nor stately ship can pass.
For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us.*

Isaiah 33:21-22

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I crown you king of my life, today. Reign over all my desires and actions. You are the everlasting king, the Almighty who saves.

December 29

Redemption

Psalm

*Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not cast us off forever!
Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?
For we sink down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.
Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.*

Psalm 44:23-26

Meditation

The mysteries of God were revealed; the way of salvation was made known; the love of God to humanity was manifested; the fountain of grace burst forth from his lips; the world of glory—the heaven of eternal life and immortality was discovered; and the resurrection from the dead plainly revealed.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 110

Scripture

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Luke 1:68-71

Prayer

Gracious God, I thank you and praise you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. May I experience the redemption, life, and glory that comes through him.

December 30

Holiness

Psalm

*Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.*

Psalm 93:5

Meditation

Persons whose love, mercy, and benevolence have been excited and strengthened by the devotions of the prayer closet are saviors of life wherever they go.

They are living illustrations of the power of the gospel on the soul, and must always have an attractive as well as a transforming influence on the minds and hearts of others.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 26.

Scripture

*The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."*

Isaiah 62:11-12

Prayer

I praise you, O Lord, my shield and protection from evil. Pour faith, love, and hope into my heart this day, so that I may be a light and blessing to others in your Name.

December 31

Prayer

Psalm

*In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.*

Psalm 18:6

Meditation

There are some who seem to think that prayer is good for the Christian as a kind of spiritual gymnastics; that it helps the Christian but does not move the Creator. This is the rankest of error. All the voices of nature, providence, redemption, and I may add, human experience, point in one mighty and triumphant declaration that our God is not too great, or too far away, or too busy to hear us and heed us when we cry to him!

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 20

Scripture

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive.

John 7:37-39

Prayer

Father, hear me when I call. Give me your Holy Spirit today so living water will flow from my heart to others.