

Feb. 5 Intercessions Epiphany 4

To live God's way is to choose the way of life.

Gathered together in one spirit, let us pray to our God.

Today's congregational response, as printed in the bulletin: Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Holy God, wherever our attention has wandered from your calling, wherever we have fallen short of your will for us, and failed to keep the spirit of your law of love, forgive us and transform us, so that we walk again the path that leads to life. (pause)

Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Wherever the Church is asked to give leadership on sensitive issues; whenever the current world expectations of behaviour need to be challenged in the light of God's love, give us the wisdom and guidance we need. (pause) Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Wherever our homes are lacking in love and mutual respect, wherever destructive relationships cause distress and heartache, and wherever people are made to feel they don't matter, give a new realisation of your ways and your hopes for us, so that your kingdom may come and your will be done. (pause) Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Heavenly Father, wherever there is illness, unhappiness, injustice or fear; wherever people feel frustrated, imprisoned or trapped; give us a greater sense of loving community, a heart to put right whatever we can, and the willingness to stand alongside one another in our sorrows. (pause) Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Wherever earthly lives have come to an end, and people are grieving the loss of their loved ones, fill these places with the eternal peace of your presence and prepare us all through our lives on this earth for everlasting life with you in heaven. (pause) Show us the way of life: **and help us to walk in it.**

Father, we thank you for the personal and affectionate way you care for us and provide for all our needs; may we spread the good news of your love by the way we respond to you and to one another.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**