

## **Offering Invitations and Prayers for January 2010 based on the Lectionary Readings**

*These resources are written from the reading of scriptures from The Message Bible.*

### **January 3–Second Sunday After Christmas**

The Psalmist proclaims “God rescues the poor at the first sign of need, the destitute who have run out of luck. God opens a place in his heart for the down-and-out. God frees them from tyranny and torture-- when they bleed, God bleeds; when they die, God dies.” As we are the servants of God, let us collect an offering to do God’s work.

God, we humbly bring our money to you as a way to help in the mission of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Use them to help those in need. Amen.

### **January 10–First Sunday After Epiphany**

Hear these words from Isaiah “When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you. When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down. When you’re between a rock and a hard place, it won’t be a dead end—Because I am God, your personal God....” Just as God lovingly cares for us, so we must care for others. As we bring our tithes and offerings, be reminded of those whom it will serve.

Personal God, the Holy of Israel, we have been called by you and feel your love. Take these gifts and use them to help those who feel that they are at a dead end. Let them feel your love through our offerings. Amen.

### **January 17–Second Sunday After Epiphany**

\_\_\_\_\_beth and Mary rejoiced in the fact that they were able to share the Good News of Christ with one another. Through our giving to the ministries of this church, we too share in that proclamation of the gospel. The question is do we rejoice in that opportunity? Through our offering, may we express that joy to God and the community.

O God, your strength is beyond comprehension. Your mercy is beyond kindness. Your grace is greater than anything. Thank you for the gifts of your love and the gifts of money that we bring. Use it for your blessed work. Amen.

### **January 24–Third Sunday After Epiphany**

\_\_\_\_\_ibes the nightmare of every parent—a child lost, not where he was supposed to be. But when Mary asks Jesus why, he asks “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be here dealing with the things of my Father?” The world asks us why we believe, why we serve, why we give. And whether they fully understand or not, we answer that we are dealing with the things of our Father. Let us give our gifts to God.

Dear God, we love and serve you and because we do, we give. Take these gifts and

use them in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **January 31–Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

\_\_\_\_\_2 describes the nightmare of every parent—a child lost, not where he was supposed to be. But when Mary asks Jesus why, he asks “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be here dealing with the things of my Father?” The world asks us why we believe, why we serve, why we give. And whether they fully understand or not, we answer that we are dealing with the things of our Father. Let us give our gifts to God.

Dear God, we love and serve you and because we do, we give. Take these gifts and use them in Jesus' name. Amen.