

praying AT HOME & TOGETHER

santa barbara community church



WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2020

ADVENT 2 • PSALM 72 (ESV) • THE KING

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

5 May they fear you[a] while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! 7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River[b] to the ends of the earth! 9 May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust! 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

12 For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

15 Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! 16 May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! 17 May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Amen and Amen!

20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and for all who are in authority, that we may live quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1,2

ELDERS

- Benji Bruneel
- Cameron Carey
- Tamara Erickson
- Krista Frohling
- Patti Hunter
- Rosemary Maione
- Aaron Marshall
- Dan Walker
- Mike Willbanks

CHURCHES

- Calvary Chapel of Santa Barbara -- TommySchneider
- Cambridge Drive Community Church – Roy Donkin
- Carpinteria Community Church – Jarrett Johnson
- Carpinteria Valley Baptist Church – Steven Button

MISSIONS

THE SUFFERING CHURCH – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- **UNABLE TO EXPRESS FAITH PUBLICLY** -- Christian expatriates are free to worship privately in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), but the government does not allow them to evangelize or pray in public. Because Emirati society is conservative, Christians exercise self-restraint in public. Converts from Islam often face pressure from family and community members to renounce their Christian faith. Converts tend not to reveal their conversion, which is why there are few reports of Christians being killed or harmed for their faith.
- **HOW CHRISTIANS ARE SUFFERING** -- Conservative Islamic society is the biggest threat to Christians in the United Arab Emirates. All converts risk losing inheritance and parental rights, being forced to marry, being fired or placed under pressure to work for “free.” Many seek asylum in another country. The government will act against any Christians attempting to speak openly about their faith, because evangelism is illegal and punishable under the law.
- **EXAMPLES OF PERSECUTION** -- At least one female convert was threatened with forced marriage and some converts were forced to flee to another emirate because of pressure. There were also some converts who were placed under financial pressure and forced to renounce their faith. Because Islamic education is compulsory for all students within state schools, the children of converts must participate in Islamic education classes.
- **PRAY FOR UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** -- Imagine that your fellowship group has had the same three members for a long time. The passion and the hope to have an impact for Christ in society can diminish. Pray God blesses the Emirati believers with new brothers and sisters with whom to share fellowship. Pray for leaders of the UAE to rule with wisdom and tolerance and to allow citizens to change their faith. Pray that the government will be able to keep the country safe from insurgents and terrorist groups. One important way to do this is to provide policies that encourage young people to be motivated to work hard for the good of their country.