

EPIPHANY

For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

Psalm 72:12-14

At Epiphany the church remembers how the magi came to recognise and celebrate the birth of Jesus. It also reminds us that Jesus came to make God known in a very real way in the world. The company of the magi showed how important Jesus was. Jesus' company with us demonstrates who he is and how important we are to God. Could we consider how our presence – in kind silence, in helpful hands, in joyful worship – shows something of God's loving presence in the world?

We are sometimes reminded that we are the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. This is because our hands – (hugging and helping), and our feet – (taking us to others, dancing, moving) can be a physical way of showing God's wonderful love.

ACTIVITY: Go and Do Likewise

Consider your local situation and your personal context – what is something you could do as a family to contribute to another person/whānau/community need?

- Gardening
- Picking up litter
- Planting vegetables or flowers
- Visiting someone lonely
- Baking for a neighbour, friend, stranger, community worker
- Donating money, clothing, stationery for school, toys that are no longer used

READ

Psalm 72:12-14

DISCUSS

All through the Bible we notice that God is especially concerned for people who are overlooked, needy, sad, or lonely. Today we have taken an opportunity to act towards people the way God acts in the world: with generosity, kindness, and grace.

What would it be like if people acted this way? Do you think that God would like us to join in with this kind of mission in the world? How could we do that this year?

PRAY

Thank you God that you are especially concerned with people when they have needs. Help us to partner with you in loving people this year.