

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – 2nd February, 2025**

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

God of heaven,  
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth  
and your messengers to every nation:  
send your Holy Spirit to transform us  
by the good news of everlasting life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.’  
‘Alas, Sovereign Lord,’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; I am too young.’

But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am too young.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,’ declares the Lord.

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.’

### **Luke 4:21-30**

Everyone in Nazareth spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s son?’ they asked.

Jesus said to them, ‘Surely you will quote this proverb to me: “Physician, heal yourself!” And you will tell me, “Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.”’

‘Truly I tell you,’ he continued, ‘no prophet is accepted in his home town. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed – only Naaman the Syrian.’

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.