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# PROPER 1 *Epiphany 5.*

*Sunday between 3 and 9 February inclusive  
(if earlier than the Second Sunday before Lent)*

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*We are commissioned to live so that we shine like lights  
which direct others on to God, the source of Light.*

Let us pray to the God who has drawn us here today,  
who loves us, and loves our world.

We pray that there may be a revival of longing  
for your kingdom to come,  
and a renewed commitment to working for it;  
for a desire to live out our faith and worship  
in our daily lives this week.

*Silence*

Come, Holy Spirit:  
**set our hearts on fire.**

We pray that all who have authority and power  
in our nation and our world may use it for good,  
upholding and instigating what is right and fair,  
and listening to the needs of those they represent.  
May we recognise our responsibility  
to support and stand up for God's values.

*Silence*

Come, Holy Spirit:  
**set our hearts on fire.**

We pray that within our homes and communities  
there may be a new awareness  
of one another's gifts and needs,  
more sensitivity and respect in our relationships;  
may we reverence one another as fellow beings,  
born of your creative love.

*Silence*

Come, Holy Spirit:  
**set our hearts on fire.**

We pray for all who are oppressed,  
downtrodden or despised;  
we pray for those who will not eat today  
and all who live in the degrading circumstances  
of poverty and powerlessness;  
we pray for a heart to put injustices right  
and strive for a fair sharing of resources.

*Silence*

Come, Holy Spirit:  
**set our hearts on fire.**

We pray for those whose life expectancy is short,  
for the babies and children who have died  
while we have been praying;  
for all who have come to the end of their earthly life  
and made that last journey through death;  
thank you for your welcoming mercy  
and the promise of eternal life.

*Silence*

Come, Holy Spirit:  
**set our hearts on fire.**

We offer you our thanks and praise  
for the scriptures that remind and inspire us,  
and for your living Spirit which enables us.

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