

Mindful of the words of the prophet Isaiah, we gather our thoughts and prayers with hope and humbly call on God to help us in our needs.

Holy God, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Saviour we ask that you will answer our prayers and make us a holy people, fit to greet him with eager hearts.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God help the leaders of nations to seek that justice and peace which come from the Word of God. May there be good news for the poor and the broken hearted; release for those illegally or wrongly imprisoned and an end to the conflicts throughout the world which lead to so much grief and mourning. We pray for all those who are striving to adjust to a new way of being “normal” in these difficult times as Covid 19 continues globally,

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, your son Jesus lived an ordinary life in Nazareth, with human parents, brothers, and sisters. He understands the difficulties faced in families. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families and strengthening our community life. We especially pray for our family members who have not yet heard of the coming of Christ and that this Christmas they may hear, believe, and receive the gift of the Christ Child.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God may your blessing be upon all those who are in pain or sickness, those who are anxious or troubled. We know that you are always present with us, even when sometimes you seem far away. Help us to feel your presence when we pass through dark places and sustain us and all who suffer through our pains and sorrows.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God may those who have died may be granted the peace of your heavenly kingdom. Give rest to the souls of those who have gone from our lives to meet with you and may they now, released from pain or sorrow, find life eternal at rest in your presence.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we continue our Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in times of joy and pleasure as well as we do when faced with fear and sorrow. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

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