

Intercessions for Advent Sunday 2 December 2018

This is Advent, the season of preparation and promise
In our worship we prepare for the birth of a baby in a dusty stable in Bethlehem
We remind ourselves that this child
will become the Saviour of the world
who will return again in power and glory
to draw all his children together

The promise of this baby is also the promise of eternal life to all who believe

Lord prepare us for your coming – in the church

We pray for your church today,
gathering all around the world
in tiny churches and great cathedrals
to praise you
and to hear your holy word.
Give us a sense of expectation as we come together
Help us to put our differences behind us
and to unite instead behind the great commission of Jesus
to make disciples of all nations and all people.

We pray for your blessing on all those who preach and teach the message of your salvation
We pray especially for Alan, Wendy and Bill as they seek to do your will
and guide us through our spiritual and worldly journeys.

Lord in your mercy

Lord prepare us for you coming- in the world

Drive despair away from our politics,
revive our dreams of justice and truth,
restore our passion for what is good and right.
Establish your just and gentle rule in all the areas of the world where there is conflict
and where peace has been powerless
and violent people have had their way.

Dear Lord, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit
may so move in the hearts of men and among the nations of the world
that the barriers of fear, suspicion and hatred which separate
us may crumble,
and the body of mankind, being healed of its divisions,
may be united in the bonds of justice and of peace,
for the honour of your name.

Lord in your mercy

Lord prepare us for your coming- in our own community

In our daily life, help us never to forget the supremacy of love.
May love motivate our care for our neighbours,
may love heal the social ills, which sometimes drag us into despair.
May love inspire our citizenship to rise beyond mediocrity,
and may we always remember that we are members one of another
and that we can never live to ourselves alone.

Lord in your mercy

Lord prepare us for you're coming- in ourselves

Deliver us O Lord, from shallowness in our thinking
and from following the superficial fashions of the world.
Save us from the worship of science and of earthly power and glory;
that acknowledging our human reason as your precious gift,
we may be freed from all false notions and misplaced trust,
and put you first in our thinking.

Lord in your mercy

Lord prepare us for you're coming- in those in need

On this day we pray for the homeless, for refugees
the expelled and forgotten people everywhere.

We also remember especially today
all those involved in the work of the many relief agencies
as they seek to make a difference for the men and women they serve.
We think particularly of the International Health Partnership, Water Aid, Operation
Christmas Child, the Salvation Army and all the other agencies
who so valiantly somehow manage to double their efforts at this time of year
May they know that your guiding hand is with them in their daily work and tireless
endeavours.

We ask you to help us all to use our gifts and our talents to the greater good of all,
Challenge us to drive away complacency and apathy
when we know in our hearts that we can do more to help and sustain those in need.
We pray for others for whom this day will seem long and hard,
those struggling with despair or depression
those in hospital or ill at home,
Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation

In particular we think of:

We think of those for whom this day will be their last,
for those who have recently left us
those whose anniversaries fall at this time and all those who mourn.
Especially we remember

Jesus is the light of the world
a light which no darkness can quench
We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ
which eternally shines and brings hope
He turns our darkness into light and in His light we see light

Lord in your Mercy

Advent Lord come even nearer.
Come to rejuvenate our faith,
come to fortify our social conscience,
come to widen our eyes of wonder,
so that when the Saviour comes
He may steal into our hearts and find them ready.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen