

Intercessions on Sunday 15 December 2024

by Charles Ledsam

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, a time when we have been waiting and preparing for Christmas.

Our Gospel reading includes the apostle John's words of Jesus "I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

Today is a time when we ask God for guidance as to how we can best be worthy and serve him and the church.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for much needed peace in our world, for tolerance and understanding in a volatile, desperate and troubled world, especially in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Syria and Iran and the many other countries where there is conflict.

We pray for wisdom and a desire for reconciliation and finding solutions.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Over 26 million Sudanese —half of the entire country— are facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Over one million Sudanese are already trying to survive in famine conditions.

For context, roughly half of all people in the world facing catastrophic hunger are Sudanese. We pray for them in their time of desperate need.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family. We pray for their good health and give thanks for the way they serve our country and our local communities. Bless them all richly.

We pray for our government and indeed all politicians as they seek to discern what is right.

We give thanks to all involved in yesterday's Beer and Carols event, especially the musicians and singers. We pray for all those who attended the event, that they felt warmth, welcome and a sense of God's love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Although many of us will be getting together with friends and family over the next few days, we remember those who find Christmas time difficult.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray and give thanks for all who serve the town both in public services, shops and offices in St Andrew Street and in our wider town. Help us to support them and show our appreciation in these tough financial times.

We give thanks for all the voluntary groups, especially those who make use of the St Andrews Centre and all who all carry out amazing work in difficult conditions.

O Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We give thanks for Alan Stewart and all the team who minister here.

Thank you for our team of Churchwardens, Julie, Lesley and Chris, and all who serve here in any way, especially Phil, Carol and Lindsay and all who help at Sunday School and do valued Youth work. We also give thanks for our Sunday Zoom team of Nick, Geoff and Kath.

We pray for visitors to our church today, for ourselves and for any others known to us going through tough times, that all may feel welcomed, supported and encouraged according to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all those who are unwell, including;

Mike, Georgina, Robert, Paul, Shelley, Oliver, Galina, Graham, Lucy, James, Jennifer, Dino, Gordon, Phoebe and Trevor

We remember those who have died, especially those known to us, including Muriel Mills, Marcia Ives, Dorothy Smith and Eileen Burns

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope.... and we remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

Grace Maud Wrangles, Graham Rowley, John Robertson, Cyril Sadler, Eva Lamb, John Lambert, Win Acheson, and Florence Alderton

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, And lift up all those who are brought low; that they may find comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

Give all of us wisdom, patience, energy and cheerfulness as we seek to serve the common good.

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

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