

Intercessions for Midnight Communion, 24/12/2020

When I say 'O Come let us adore him', please respond, 'Christ the Lord!'

Father God, on this Christmas morning may we rejoice with you and all creation as we welcome Jesus our saviour, God with us. As this, strangest of years, comes to an end, may we turn towards the future with hope and joy.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus as a tiny baby in a stable, we pray for everyone facing Christmas without a proper home. For those who have been forced to leave their homes through conflict or poverty. For those whose homes have been destroyed. For those who have a roof over their head – but it's a tent in the freezing cold, or a house with no heating or electricity. We pray for everyone whose cold, or wet, or hungry this Christmas time. May we reach out and share what we have so no one goes without.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus, we pray for the Church. When the king of creation came to earth, we did not expect a tiny baby held in his mother's arms. This year has confounded all our expectations – everything we had been hoping and planning for. We pray for the church, the clergy and everyone involved in services and thank them for working so hard in such difficult times to bring us the good news of our saviour's birth in a myriad of new ways. As we move forward we pray you would help us see the good, see the hope and light born among us.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus, we pray for everyone feeling lost and alone. We pray for those who normally find Christmas difficult. We pray for those struggling, unable to reach out and touch other people for fear of infection. We pray for those who don't have access to technology to keep in touch with friends and family and who are facing Christmas alone and isolated. For everyone who has had to make difficult decisions about whether to travel and who to see, or not to see. We pray that you, Lord Jesus, would come close to everyone and show them they are not alone.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus, we pray for those who are ill at this time, whether in body, mind or spirit. For those facing covid, for those with anxiety and depression, for anyone living with chronic pain. We pray for healing. When Jesus came to earth, we're told he faced all things that we face. Hunger. Pain. Sadness. Laughter. Joy. Peace and Love. Thank you for your understanding, Lord and your love for us.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus, we pray for those who have died, and are now safe with you in glory. We pray for everyone left behind, grieving and in pain. Bless them richly, Lord, with the knowledge that the tiny baby grew up, died on a cross for our sins, rose again and defeated death.

O Come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

As we welcome Jesus, we pray for ourselves. Help us to see the truth in this tiny, new born baby. Help us to live it in the coming year and share it with others – however we safely can – because:

"There is a light shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

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