

### **Intercessions for Advent Sunday, 28 November 2021 (Jane Woolf)**

O come, O come Emmanuel. Come and renew our faith this Advent. As we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Father God, at this time we pray for the worldwide church. As we walk together, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray for our newly elected General Synod, our bishops and archbishops, our local clergy and all who work for the good of the church, giving their time and money in your service. May we be good stewards of those resources and use them for your glory.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of Peace for all people. We know that without justice there can be no peace. Let peace come when all people are respected, regardless of race and religion. Let peace come when trading weapons of mass destruction is a crime. Let peace come when the earth's resources are used wisely for the common good. Let peace come when money is used to serve and not enslave the world. Let peace come through the transformation of our lives that we may do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

And at this time we pray especially for those experiencing modern slavery and those who work against it. We pray for those trafficked, abused, raped and exploited for the profit of others. Help us to take a close look at those around us. Help us to see the signs and not pass by. During Advent, we prepare for your coming as a tiny, helpless baby. Help us use our power and voice to keep the vulnerable and helpless safe. That when we fail to act, it is you, the King of Glory not some stranger, that is trafficked, abused, raped and exploited. They are not strangers to you – you know their names and you count their every tear.

Help us to be Peacemakers in our own homes, at our work, in our society, wherever we meet people, so that the peace of Christ is spread throughout the world.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

We pray for all those we know who are ill at this time, whether in body, mind or spirit. We pray for anyone suffering depression or mental anguish. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need. Reassure them of your love and unending promises.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Jesus, you came to us as a light to the world. A light that no darkness can extinguish. We pray for those who have died, and who we can no longer see. We trust them to you and pray for those left behind to mourn them. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

As we walk the familiar path through Advent, and hear again the stories we know and love, Father, teach us something new this year. May we experience your love in a new way. May we be vigilant to the needs of those around us, and the courage to speak out in faith, knowing that you walk beside us all the way.

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