

## Intercessions

Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>

O Christ, as we anticipate your coming, we focus today on your ..... attributes to help us make sense of our world and to pray for it.

Christ **The Word**, source of all authority and truth, we ask that you would help us to discern your way and the values of your kingdom, in a world where truth is elusive, often drowned out by false and forceful ideologies, where values seem not to be fixed but constantly shifting. We pray for strength for those who try to uphold your ways, courage not only to discern but also to act upon your word, and for your guiding light for those who do not yet know you but are seeking a new way.

O Christ, **help us to hear your still small voice within the clamour of the world**

We come to you as **King and Lord of All** asking you to fill us with confidence that you are in control of all things although the world, in terms of climate, environment, government and human behaviour, may seem to be fragmenting into chaos. May we learn to hold onto all that is good and true, however contrary things seem, continuously praying for our political leaders, our legal system and all those who are charged with decision-making.

O Christ, **help us to hear your still small voice within the clamour of the world**

**Prince of Peace**, may we never give up on working for peace in every aspect of our lives, knowing that one day your reign will be established on this earth. We pray for all war-torn areas of the world, for healing of the consequences of past conflict and a means of mitigating the seeds of future hostilities before they grow. We pray for peace in our own relationships. Never let us grow weary or disillusioned with the search for your true shalom.

O Christ, **help us to hear your still small voice within the clamour of the world**

Lord Jesus, you came to earth as a helpless **baby** to share our lives as a **human being** and identify with us in all the hurt and suffering that involves. We pray here especially for children living in poverty or neglect, those subjected to cruelty - especially remembering little Arthur - , for those living, as you did too, as refugees. We pray for their families, and, especially for the protection of family units everywhere. We bring to you young people in the gang culture, trying to find a sense of belonging in wrong places. Help us never to forget that you share in all our pain, so enabling us to persevere in prayer.

O Christ, **help us to hear your still small voice within the clamour of the world**

Jesus, **Light of the World**, in your own time you were rejected because people loved the darkness which hid their evil ways. The same is true today. We pray here against the scourges of society which arise from self-seeking motives – human trafficking and drug-dealing, misuse of public office, fraud and theft, abuse and sexual crime. We pray that we will allow you to shine your light into the dark corners of our own hearts so that we no longer desire any way but yours and that that light might shine out from us to bring joy to a suffering world.

O Christ, **help us to hear your still small voice within the clamour of the world**

**Lamb of God, Redeemer**, because you came to earth and paid the price for us, we know that there is hope; that love has conquered death and one day your kingdom of perfection will be established for eternity. Trusting in this, we ask you to help us as we work to build the kingdom now. Though the world seems often so grim and despairing, may we never be overwhelmed with the task facing us. Many sand grains make up the sea shore; great oaks grow from little acorns and the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. We cannot change the world alone, but we offer our small actions and prayers to the Lord who fed 5000 from 5 loaves and 2 fishes and who speaks to us through a still small voice, not a storm.

O Christ, Saviour of the World, **we bow before you and praise you.**

**Amen**