

Intercessions for Second Sunday of Advent, 5 December 2021 (Richard Shreeve)

Mighty God, give us faith like John the Baptist, strong enough to believe even in a desert that you and your kingdom are no farther from us than our hands. Make our heart strong like his, not swayed by trials or snared by false pleasures. Give us courage to be faithful until your promises are fulfilled.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Holy God, as we pursue the many imaginative ways in which our Churches approach Christmas during Advent, help us to understand through them the truths about God's amazing love and Grace. We pray especially for all Bishops, Ministers and Laity in this very busy Advent season with all the additional problems the pandemic may cause.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray for those whose responsibility it is to manage the world's economy, and for those who have difficult ethical decisions to make; we pray for wisdom and courage to do what is right especially in the light of new mutations of the Covid Virus. We pray for all who are terrorised throughout the world especially where fragile economies and international friendship and understanding are threatened as tourists no longer visit places affected by recent terrorist attacks.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, we pray for those we see and talk to every day or every week; for those we often argue with or misunderstand; for those who brighten our lives and make us smile; for a greater thankfulness and appreciation of those we usually take for granted.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, all the needs of your children are already known to you and so with God-given love we bring to mind those who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, that they may find you there beside them in these dark and painful times. In a short silence we bring before you those we know who are in need of our prayers

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Gracious God, we pray for the dying and those who have passed from this earthly life. May they know the eternal peace of heaven, and may those who miss them be comforted.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, who sent John the Baptist to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to take heed of his warnings and to turn away from our sinfulness so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

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