

Prayers 13 December – 3rd Sunday in Advent

In response to the message

Heavenly Father, even as **we** look forward to the great day coming when Jesus will return, we know that there are many people who scoff at such a thought and follow their own evil desires. They deliberately forget the reality that when Jesus comes, he will come with judgement. Thank you that any 'delay' in Jesus' coming is only due to your patience in wanting to give people time to repent and come back to you. Thank you, Father! Thank you for your grace and patience. We pray that many will take up the opportunity to return to you while they can. And may we your people NEVER forget your kindness and your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Christmas celebrations

Loving Lord, we know that Christmas will be very different for many people this year. Different because some family members have died through COVID or other reasons through the year. Different because some families are not able to gather as they normally would. Different, because of the restrictions we face even in gathering for church. Yet we pray that in the midst of these challenges and perhaps even BECAUSE of them, we might concentrate our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Christmas. May the changes we face, cause us to consider the reality of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that we, through his poverty, might become rich. May our Christmas celebrations this year, draw us ever closer to you, in love and wonder and awe and praise. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

For our world

Loving Lord, King of Kings, Lord or Lord; hear our prayer for our world. We grieve and are burdened by all that we regularly see on our TVs and read in various news feeds. What a mess our world is in. Leadership in many nations which is self-serving and corrupt; civil unrest and violence out of control; out and out war in some places which has been raging for years; persecution of Christians in many places where believers are targeted and killed. Have mercy on our world which has turned its back on you. Have mercy on our world and soften hearts to truth of who Jesus is. Have mercy on our world and raise up more gospel workers to share the good news. Have mercy on our world and help us to do all we can to point people to our hope - Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

For those struggling today

God of compassion and power: we pray for all those who are doing it tough today. For the lost, the lonely, the outcast, the depressed, the anxious, the chronically ill, for those in constant pain; and for those nearing death. Please Lord, intervene in their lives to bring hope and strength and comfort, and where it please you, healing. May they know you as their refuge and draw strength from your strength. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**