

INTERCESSIONS – ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 2017

*Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart*

Holy God of Advent

You became weak so we could find strength in moments of heartbreak;
You left the safety of Heaven to wander the wilderness of the world,
Holding our hands when we feel hopeless;
you set aside your glory to hold our pain,
so we might be healed, even when there seems to be no hope.
You became one of us so we would never be alone,
in any moment, in any circumstances.

Lord, in this season when every heart should be happy and light,
many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life,
with burdens, that steal our joy.
Fill us with your light instead of our darkness.
You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way;
help us clear the way in our hearts and our minds
to concentrate on the true meaning of Christ's coming
and not on the worldly things,
which so often block out our thoughts and worship of you.

Thank you, Lord, for your grace and the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel; the word made flesh.

Lord God,
we live in disturbing days across the world;
a world filled with doubt and conflict, inequality and injustice.
Make this time of waiting, the time of a new awakening
of thought, consideration, endeavour and action,
by all leaders and all nations,
to bring about peace, freedom and understanding,
through the knowledge of the one true gift,
Jesus our Saviour.

Thank you Lord for the gift of Jesus our Emmanuel; the word made flesh

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ,
understood people's fear and pain
before they were aware of them,
have mercy on those in need,
for the hungry and the homeless,
for those in refugee camps, hospitals and care homes,
for those who are cared for in their own homes.

Bless those who work to bring them relief,
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts
at this time of goodwill to all men.

Our thoughts go out today especially to...

Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn with your continuing compassion.
We think particularly of the family and friends of...

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Wait for the Lord; keep watch take heart
Come, Lord Jesus. Pour out your spirit on us today.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of Thy Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.