

Sunday 30 November – First Sunday of Advent

Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Almighty God we give you thanks for the great joy of your creation, with all its magnificence and beauty. But, in spite of your splendour and majesty, such is your unconditional love for each of us. You know us as we really are and understand our needs and our fears. Lord we wait in the darkness longing for light and yearning to know you more clearly.

*Lord, we long for light. **Come Jesus, come.***

Loving Lord, we bring before you your world, created by your love but broken by us through greed, inequality and violence. Help our hearts never to be hardened by the injustices we see daily in news reports. We pray for all who suffer, thinking especially today of the atrocities happening in Nigeria including Christians who are being murdered for their faith. We continue to pray for Ukraine, Gaza and other countries where there is conflict and suffering. We pray for all who live in fear and oppression. We give thanks and pray for all the aid agencies who work so hard bringing help and comfort to those in desperate need.

*Lord we long for light. **Come Jesus, come.***

Gracious Lord, we echo the Advent promise of the Prophet Isaiah, and long for the day when all governments will be upon your shoulders and, Jesus, the Prince of Peace will rule. We pray for leaders of nations, cities and towns across the world that their ears will hear your Word and their hearts opened to you.

We pray for the leaders of your church that, true to their calling, they will take the gospel of your good news into all the earth. We pray for Bishop Guli, Bishop Roger, Archdeacon Ruth, all the clergy both lay and ordained in our Benefice and here at St Luke's. Please give strength and encouragement to all who are working so hard during the Vacancy and we pray that the right person to be our Rector will be led here by your Holy Spirit.

*Lord we long for light. **Come Jesus come.***

Merciful Lord, we pray for communities everywhere that the light of Advent will shine bringing love, mercy and justice. As we begin to stock up for Christmas and prepare to share with those we love, make us aware of

those who are hungry and homeless and respond generously to their need. We thank you for our Food Bank and Community Hub.

Living Lord, as we look towards the joyful time when we celebrate the greatest gift the world has even known, the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, we remember those for whom Christmas brings no cheer. We pray for those who are lonely, the sick, the bereaved, those whose lives are consumed with anxiety, and for anyone finds the Christmas season hard. May they be comforted by your love.

Dear Lord we bring to you those who are unwell and are on our hearts today. We pray for June Dennis, Jericho Hasieber & Jo. May they know your healing presence in their lives.

We pray for the families and friends of those who have recently died: Martin Turner, Eileen Tubb and Val Gardiner. Please bring them strength and comfort as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

From our Memorial Book we give thanks for the lives of: Robert Brian Greed, John Luscombe, Phyllis Dudley, Barbara Bayliss.

*Lord we long for light. **Come, Jesus, Come.***

May the promise of Advent inspire us, give us your grace to show acts of compassion not only to those we love but especially to those who feel unloved. May we be joyful messengers of your kingdom and in everything , make us true children of your light.

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