

## **Sunday 7 December – Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Prayers written by Pat Southwood**

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Lord of life and love we rejoice in the inspiration of your presence. Let your church here and throughout the world be filled with the joy of your salvation. We ask your blessing on our community and we ask you to help us to use this Advent as a time of prayer and self-examination so that we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus in peace and faith.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of life and love give wisdom and a sense of true statesmanship to all governments that they may put the needs of the world and all its peoples before personal ambition and self-interest.

Guide all those who have roles to play in the brokering of peace in the war torn parts of our troubled world, influence their decision making, transform their thoughts and governance.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of life and love help all those in power to understand the fears and anxieties that are a constant companion to those whose lives are affected by their decisions.

Give them the skills and understanding to make compassionate decisions about the refugees seeking sanctuary here, about the sick and the vulnerable, and those who are struggling to feed their families and keep them warm.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of life and love help us not to take for granted the good things that surround us, do not let us forget the homeless, the hungry and those on the margins of society; it is easy to look the other way, instead confront us with their problems and show us how we may alleviate their pain and unhappiness.

Give hope and comfort to all those in our community who are cold and hungry help us to help them. Come to them and us this Christmas that we may all find the peace and fulfilment that only you can provide.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of life and love we bring to you in faith today all those who are unwell at this time, those injured by war or accident and those suffering from disability and dysfunction which has no prospect of cure. Remembering particularly June Dennis, Jericho Hasieber and Jo

Let your healing love surround them.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord of life and love in your Son you bring salvation; sustain and comfort all whose hearts grieve for a lost loved one. We remember all those who have been bereaved by the terrible storms in South East Asia and the fire in Hong Kong.

From this community we bring to you today the families and friends of Eileen Tubb, Roger Traveller and Val Gardiner.

We remember the love and support of all those who are no longer with us and we give thanks for those whose lives are recorded in our memorial book

Barbara Kewell, Robert Taylor, David Mallett, Lily Purcell, Ronald Dewey, William Porter and Irene Baldock

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

As we set forth on a new week help us to remember that this day and every day is your gift to us; pass into our thoughts so that all we do and think is done in the awareness of your presence in our hearts.

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