

HT INTERCESSIONS
Advent 4 19th December 2010

Almighty God in heaven, the day draws near, when the glory of your Son, will make radiant, the night of the waiting world.

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, as *we* wait with increased anticipation, strengthen and guide the Archbishop of Canterbury, our bishops, and archdeacon. Bless the ministries of our priests, Toby, Elizabeth and Sally, and all those who support them in their work. Grant to them all, wisdom and patience, as they seek to reunite the dissenters, to work with other churches, and to spread the Good News throughout the community.

“Lord, bestow on them, the blessing of your wisdom, the patience of your strength, and the life of your spirit.”

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, help *us*, as seekers after your truth, to use this time of waiting, and looking forward, to assess our *own* lives. We all fall short of your example in Jesus, by petty jealousies, by gossip and dissention, by meanness and ignorance of the facts, and by misuse of power, all of which are against Jesus’ commandment, to *“Love one another”*. Help us Lord, to exercise your love, in all our dealings with our neighbours. Help us to find the *good*, that is within each of us, and to build on that.

A prayer taken from the Annual Methodist Covenant Service.

*“Forgive us, O Lord, wherein we have wasted our time, or misused our gifts.
Forgive us, wherein we have excused our own wrong-doing, or evaded our responsibilities.*

*Forgive us, that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good.
Forgive us, wherein we have cherished the things that divide us from others.
And forgive us, wherein we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, and grudging in forgiveness.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, when the commercial world is determined to plunge us deeper into debt, draw our attention afresh, to the plight, of a third of this world's people, who live below subsistence level. Help us to understand why so many of those people, are prepared to risk their lives to reach the prosperous West. Help us to gain some comprehension of what it must be like to live in areas of war and conflict, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Cambodia ... the list is endless. Help us too, to appreciate the strength of the faith, of the 100 million Christians around the world, who are *daily* persecuted for what they believe. Bless and guide the rulers of the nations, and all in authority at all levels. Direct them in the ways of justice, and of truth and reconciliation, that we may *all* learn to honour one another, and to seek the common good.

A prayer from The Roman Missal.

“Heavenly Father, may the lure of greed, not impede us from that joy, which moves the hearts of those who await the coming of your Son. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom, which fills the minds of those who find Him.”

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, we pray for your blessing on the members of our families, wherever they may be around the world, on our friends, on our neighbours, and on this congregation. May this time be healthy, exciting, uniting and *re*-uniting.

Be with those, for whom this is *not* a happy time; those caught up in problems caused by the weather, those who will inevitably remember past sorrows, family break downs, or bereavements. Help them to remember the good and positive aspects of their lives, and grant them peace of mind.

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, we pray that your healing spirit, will fall on those known to us, who are in any way dis-eased, whether in body, or mind or spirit; on those anticipating hospital treatment, and on those recuperating from such treatment.

Particularly today, we pray for Derek, Hazel McCormack, Julia Dexter, Margaret Lawton, Joy Jones, Martin, Bob Padey, Stuart Ansell, Don Lawes, Rosalind Croft, Terry Sanders, Sally, Moira, Len, Joyce, and for all those known to us personally, who need *our* prayers and *your* blessing.

Heavenly Father, grant final peace to those who have died. Particularly today, we give thanks for the life of Maureen Webb.

May their souls rest in peace, *and rise in glory*.

And grant peace to those who mourn for a loved one, but rejoice for a life.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At this Advent-tide, let us re-dedicate ourselves afresh, to the unification of the Kingdom of God here on Earth, and its witness to the people in this community.

“Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, we pray that when your Son - our Lord - comes, He may find us prepared, and ready to receive Him.”

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers,

For the sake of your Son,

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen