

HT INTERCESSIONS
Advent 1 29th November 2015

The response to *Maranatha*, is *Come Lord, Come*

Almighty God, the day draws near, when the glory of your Son, will shine through the darkness of this troubled and waiting world.

In a moment of silence, let us bring before God, all those things which preoccupy our minds; our concerns, our needs, our worries and our fears, and offer them to Him.

Maranatha.
Come Lord, come.

Heavenly Father, at the commencement of this new church year, we pray for Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, as she opens the Church of England's General Synod, asking for unity amongst Christians. Strengthen and guide our Archbishops, our Bishops and our clergy, and all those ordained, and lay people, who support them in their work. Bless the African tour of Pope Frances. Grant to them all, wisdom and patience, tolerance and understanding, as they seek to unite all Christians, to reunite the dissenters, to work with other faiths, and to spread the Good News of Christ's coming, in the community, the Country, and throughout the world.

Maranatha.
Come Lord, come.

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, as we wait with eager anticipation, help *us*, as seekers after your truth, to use the time, 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 one of us, and to *build* on that.

Maranatha.
Come Lord. come

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, when the commercial world seduces us to spend more than we have, we pray for those, who are affected by the Country's economic problems, the unemployed, the destitute, the growing

number dependent upon food banks, and those carrying crippling debts and who cannot see a way out.

Draw our attention afresh, to the plight, of a *third* of this World's people, who live below subsistence level, whilst we throw away mountains of food every day.

Help us to understand why so many, are prepared to risk their lives to reach the prosperous West. Lord, teach us tolerance and understanding.

We think of the ordinary people in war-torn countries, who live in terror of oppressive regimes, who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, and their loved ones.

Heavenly Father, help us to understand the motives behind the many factions which are so called *Islamists*, but which do not represent Islam. When we see the atrocities they perpetrate, how *can* we love our enemies?

Bless and guide the rulers of the democratic nations, the European Union, and the United Nations, as they consider their responses. Give guidance to the negotiators in Paris, debating the future response to climate change. Direct them all in the ways of justice, of truth, and of reconciliation, that we may *all* learn to honour one another, and to seek the common good.

Maranatha.

Come Lord, come.

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, refreshing, exciting, uniting and *re*-uniting.

Be with those, for whom this is *not* a happy time; those who will inevitably remember past sorrows, family break downs, or bereavements. Calm those who are terrified and traumatised by what they have witnessed in recent days. 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 this World AIDS Day, we think of all those, whose lives have been blighted by HIV and AIDS, and we hold them lovingly in our thoughts. We remember too those who tend the sick and the dying, and those who search for new treatments and cures.

Particularly today, we pray for:

Tony Eggington, Sylvia,

and for all those known to us personally, who need our *prayers*, our *support*, and *your* blessing.

Heavenly Father, grant final peace to those who have died, of AIDS, in terrorist attacks, accidents or natural disasters. Particularly today, we pray for:

Nina May and _____

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

And grant peace to those left behind, who mourn for their loved ones, but rejoice for their lives.

(Silence)

Maranatha.

Come Lord, Come.

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