

**HT INTERCESSIONS**  
**Advent 4 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

The response to Maranatha, is ‘Come Lord Jesus’ – said with meaning and conviction.

*Almighty God, at this season of excitement and anticipation, help us to appreciate the enormity of its significance.*

**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, Ness and Ross, and all those who support them, both ordained and laity. Grant them wisdom and patience, as they seek to reunite the dissenters, to work with other churches, and to spread the Good News of Christ’s coming throughout the community.

**Maranatha**  
**Come Lord Jesus**

**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.

*“Forgive us, when we wasted our time, or misused our gifts;  
when we excused our wrong-doing, or evaded our responsibilities;  
for being thoughtless in judgement, hasty in condemnation,  
and grudging in forgiveness.”*

**Maranatha**  
**Come Lord Jesus**

**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.

Help us too, to appreciate the strength of the faith, of the 100 million Christians around the world, who are *being* persecuted this Christmastide, for what they believe.

In these disturbing and unsettling times, here and abroad, bless and guide the leaders and governments of the nations, and all in authority at whatever level. 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.

## **Maranatha** **Come Lord Jesus**

**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 all mothers-to-be, as they, like Mary, prepare for the birth of their babies.

Bless the many people who will be working this Christmastide, public utilities and services, transport, midwives and nurses and care-homes, police and security personnel, and our armed services.

Be with those, for whom this is *not* a happy time; those whose holiday travel plans have been ruined or disrupted, the homeless and those sleeping rough, those caught up in problems caused by the weather, and climate change, 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 in hospital or anticipating treatment, and on those recuperating.

Particularly today, we pray for,

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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 \_\_\_\_\_)

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.

**Maranatha**  
**Come Lord Jesus**

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.

**Silence**

*“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.”*

**Maranatha**  
**Come Lord Jesus**

**Amen**