

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
17 December 2023 Advent 3

Real God Holy Lord God, we thank You for this waiting time. Quiet our hearts to discern Your voice and follow Your leading in the many coming changes, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your name in the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Real Church The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby • Bishops Linda Nicholls and Susan Johnson • National Indigenous Archbishop, Chris Harper • Bishops Geoffrey Woodcroft and Jason Zinko • Metropolitan Greg Kerr-Wilson • Bishop Michael Lubowa

In the worldwide church: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

ACC: The Ven. Alan Perry, General Secretary, and staff;

ELCIC: Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and staff

Council of the North: Diocese of Athabasca

Rupert's Land The Missions of saint benedict's table – Deacon Paul Peters Derry; St. Andrew's Mission and Emmanuel Mission (Sudanese Missions) – Rev. Monybuny (Abraham) Kuol Chuol and Rev. Reuben Garang, Honorary Assistant

St. Aidan's: We pray for Rev. Merv Lanctot as our interim pastor. We ask You would bless him and Susan richly in the coming months. Walk with Pastor Dave and Elaine in the next few weeks and in this new chapter of their lives that demands faith and trust in You. May we show them our love and appreciation in this time remaining, for they have cared for us, in joys and difficulties. Give them all they need as they step away from us into Your will.

Missions: We pray for Naomi House, thanking You for the privilege of helping in this refugee ministry. Bless the staff and all residents. We pray for Aiman in his recent move out of our sponsored room, and for his family, that they will soon be reunited with him here. And we bring before you the new refugee family of four that have arrived at Naomi House. Give them the grace and energy to accustom themselves to all they will have to deal with as they settle in.

Real Lives Lord God, as Advent yields to Christmas, help us to remember that this is a holy time. If we have offended anyone, may we make amends quickly. Where we have criticized others, especially in our church family or its leaders, grace us to examine our hearts, repent and humbly ask their forgiveness. May we cultivate the gifts and fruits of Your Holy Spirit: kindness, gentleness, courtesy, considerateness, to put aside all discontent and complaint as we focus on this time of Jesus' becoming as one of us, but without sin. As He will return on a day we do not know, may we keep accounts with others and with You very short, to grow in love for one another, as we have been taught as members of Your Body.

We pray for those in hospital, personal care homes, or the homebound. Lord, please be with: Barbara, Bill, Carol, Deb, Elizabeth, Harold, Joy, Kathy, Kathy and David, Laird, Margaret, Pam, Pearl, Sue.

Please lift up to the Lord others who are on your hearts.

We remember and give thanks for those recently departed in Christ, remembering especially our brother Neville, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. Bless them with Your peace as we pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus, in the Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers.