

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
15 December 2024 Advent 3

Would you please join me for our time of Intercessory Prayer.

Real God This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. I was glad when they said unto me let us go into House of the Lord. Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God. And we are the people of His pasture and sheep of His hand.

Holy Lord God, we thank You for this Advent Season, where we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Quiet our hearts to discern Your voice and follow Your leading that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your name in the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Real Church In the worldwide church we pray today for: the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

ACC: We pray for all who are in leadership in the Anglican Church of Canada and the dioceses that make up the *Council of the North* including specifically the Diocese of Athabasca in northern Alberta.

In our own diocese we pray for Bishop Geoff as he fights cancer. We pray for his healing, and for a full recovery. We also pray for the Mission of Saint Benedict's Table – and their incumbent the Reverend Andrew Colman.

St. Aidan's: We pray for our Pastor, Chris Barnes. We ask that you sustain and strengthen him throughout this very busy pastoral season. Thank you for his leadership in our midst and in the words of Paul, thank you for the good work that you have begun in his life, that we are confident, you will continue in him until the day of Christ Jesus. May you fill him with your wisdom from above, that in the words of James is pure, peaceable, full of mercy, good fruits and that is unwavering. We are mindful that we are in a season of change here at St Aidan's and a time of transition for our future as a Parish. As Pastor Chris leads us, may he walk in the Spirit and speak your truth in love. May he be encouraged by what Paul said to Timothy, in that you have blessed Chris with your Spirit of power, love and sound judgement. We are also blessed with many mature Christians in leadership and we give you thanks for them. We do not take for granted their faithful

ministry in our midst, including in particular Merv Lanctot, and our Honourary Assistants Kim and Sue Salo. We also give thanks for Les Kovacs who has faithfully kept our church running smoothly with his administrative gifts, as well as generously sharing his gift of preaching. May we take to heart his message of encouragement and challenge this morning.

We also want to thank you for the blessing of inspiring sacred music in our church this Advent Season and thank you especially for Trish Reimer and the Choir and for Richard and the Praise Band for the truly heavenly and joyful music that we were blessed with, in the Lessons and Carols service here on Friday night. Thank you that your name was honoured and glorified and that your gospel was clearly and powerfully presented.

Missions:

We pray for Joy Ngozi as she ministers in Nigeria. Lord, may you provide all the guidance and wisdom needed for their mission leadership training this week. May you equip and protect them in their village outreach later this month. Prepare the hearts of all those who will hear about your truth and love. May you be received into the hearts of many.

And may each of us this Christmas season remember that we are your ambassadors. Prick our consciences so that we are aware of those in need. Help us to find ways to practically share from the bounty we have experienced with those who are in need around us, for those who are less fortunate than we are.

Real Lives Lord God, as Advent yields to Christmas, help us to remember that this is a holy time. If we are at odds with anyone, a loved one, a family member, a friend, may we make amends quickly. Where we have criticized others, especially in our church family or its leaders, through the power of your Holy Spirit within us, help us to examine our hearts, to repent and humbly ask their forgiveness. May we cultivate the gifts and fruits of Your Holy Spirit: kindness, gentleness, compassion, love, joy... to put aside all discontent and complaint as we focus on Christ's coming to be among us.

We pray for those in hospital, Personal Care Homes and for those who are home-bound.

Specifically we pray for:

Barbara, Bill, Brent, Carol, David, Deb, Diana, Elizabeth, Eun Young, Harold, John, Joy, Kath, Ken, Margaret, Pam, Pastor Indy, Pearl, Sue, Tracy and for Helen, who has just been moved to Palliative care. We also want to pray for Bob Blanchard and the extended Blanchard family in their loss of Madeline. They have lost the family matriarch and we too at St. Aidan's share in their grief as we have lost someone who for many, many years was one of the stalwart pillars of our fellowship here at St. Aidan's.

Let's take a moment to offer up the names of any others that the Lord has placed on our hearts in this Advent Season. [*Pause and Wait....*]

We remember and give thanks for all recently departed in Christ and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. Lord, grant all who have lost loved ones, your comfort and your peace as they celebrate lives lived by faith in You.

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN