

PRAYERS for December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Assistant: As we await the coming of our Savior in mercy and majesty, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: O Lord God, we thank You for being the God of our salvation. As we are about to celebrate the coming of Your Son into the flesh, You know the needs of our souls. Help us keep our thoughts on the high and holy things as we observe this glorious time. Rejoicing in His birth in Bethlehem, we thank You for the forgiveness You deliver to us as Jesus comes in Your Word and in Your Sacraments. Open our hearts to receive Your Son. Open our hearts to care for Your people. Open our hearts to feel Your steadfast love for all of us. Thank You for bringing us holy joy and divine peace.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Holy Lord, You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our salvation. Your angels visited Your servants Joseph and Mary with news of the coming of the Savior. Long before the birth of Your Son, You had named Him Immanuel, God with us. Our hearts are filled with the joy of His coming at this holy season. As our souls glorify You, let hope and faith fill our thoughts. The more we praise You, the more clearly we see You. Give us strength to believe, to trust, and to act as You would have us do.

Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Faithful God, sometimes we fall prey to frustration, anxiety, worry, or exhaustion, and we have heavy hearts. There is sadness, danger, and evil in many places in our world. Satan is at work all around us, but we have come to You this day to rejoice in the good things. We rejoice for all the people who have love and compassion for others. We rejoice that we have first responders who rush to help victims when a crisis occurs. We rejoice that we have missionaries who take Your Gospel to all who do not know You. We rejoice that You will love us forever. Help us live each day with celebration in our hearts and praise on our lips for Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Merciful Father, You give us the promise of Your everlasting love. Help us to remember that You are always near and that through You we can overcome any challenge. We ask You to comfort Your people who are hurting today. Grant healing and an extra measure of Your love to those who are ill, those who are hungry or cold, those who are in pain, and those who live in sadness and despair. May they know that by our words and actions that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Watch over the special seniors who will receive the gifts from our Angel Tree. We pray especially for our friends and family members who are on our prayer list and those whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Gracious Lord, You guided Joseph to take Mary as his wife, and You kept them safe in the days of their journey to Bethlehem. You led the shepherds to the Baby Jesus. We ask You to protect all who will travel during the coming weeks. Make their ways safe and their homecomings joyful. Protect the members of our military who are away from friends and family and let them know that they are deeply loved and appreciated.

Lord, in Your mercy..... our prayer. Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen