

Old Hills Malvern Churches

Intercessions for 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

6th December 2020

Everlasting God, as we journey through this too short a season of Advent, seeking to make our paths straight for His coming, we now offer our prayers and petitions through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Mighty God, your servant John the Baptist called people to change the way they lived and to prepare themselves for the coming of your son. Raise up we pray, prophetic voices in our own time. Enable us to discern the truth which draws us closer to you. We pray for all those who care, serve, teach, preach and minister to the congregations here across these villages and parishes. May they be as fearless in proclaiming the truth as your servant John and may we be ready to adapt and change in response to their leadership.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for our world and the problems faced by so many of your children. We pray for all who live under the threat of war and terrorism and the poverty which comes in its wake. We pray for those who have little to eat, meagre dwellings and few material possessions when we who live in the richer world have so much. With the positive news as regards a Covid set of vaccines coming on line, help us to care and to share this Good News of Scientific discovery with those that need it and to give generously whenever we can in the same way that you gave us your son Jesus Christ at the first Christmas.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, your son Jesus lived an ordinary family life in Nazareth and so you understand the difficulties faced in family life. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families and strengthening our community life whilst we come to terms with the Covid tiering. As we draw closer to Christmas we pray for those families who will feel their problems increased by the need to provide what they cannot truly afford.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, may your blessing be upon all those who are sick, in pain, anxious or troubled. We ask you to be close to those passing through dark places, to those undergoing treatments at home or in hospital and to give thanks for all working in the Health Services who are treating them.

(Short Silence)

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, give rest to those who have gone from our lives to be with you. May they now live the life eternal and rest in everlasting peace in your presence. Strengthen the bereaved with the knowledge of your loving presence in this their time of greatest need.

(Short Silence)

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, we ask you to help us make time for true preparations this Advent. In the midst of the rush of life somewhat tempered by Covid anxiety, help us to find inner quietness and an awareness of your presence. Let this Christmas be a time when we concern ourselves not so much with material things but focus more on the spiritual gifts you give so unselfishly. Let us pray for all those that will be lonely at Christmas and give us the confidence to reach out and be with those that need our help, love and care.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**