

Prayer of the Church - Sunday 28 November 2021 - Advent 1C

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in your name. Keep us alert and watchful through the dark night of this world, and give us confidence as we wait for your coming in glory. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church - its people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of your holy word. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world. Wake all people up to your just judgment and to your saving blood. Keep us alert and watchful as we confess you in the world. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace. Keep us alert and watchful to serve you by giving good service to others on our daily lives. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by drought, and poverty. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others, and move us to give generously to appeals at Christmas time. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

Lord, stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Rest those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. And come to those we know in particular need: Laryssa Anker, David Hermann, Jill McGregor, and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)* *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

Lord, today we thank you for the service to the church over the last 50 years by pastors David Christian, Malcolm Bartsch, Rob Voigt, Horst Sauer, John Heidenreich, Noel Noack, and Chris Bartholomaeus, and for the faithful service, before their deaths, of pastors Brian Kuchel, Max Stollznow and Steve Mattner. Please continue to bless the word they proclaimed and continue to proclaim, so that it may be fruitful in the life of Christian love. *Lord, in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we do not know the day or the hour that you will come with great power and glory. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome you with joy. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**