

Prayers of the People
First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022
Intercessor: Jane Whittemore

Creating God, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Attawandron and Haudenosaunee people, the Dish With One Spoon Covenant and Huron Tract Treaty. As the seasons of creation have changed from autumn to winter we, in our worship, have entered a new season, the season of Advent, a time of hope and expectant waiting. As we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ let us always be mindful of his Father's creation and care for it as Christ would have us do.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy

Creating God, as we enter a new year in the life of the church we pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan; Linda our Primate; Sidney, Interim National Indigenous Bishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia and Primate of Brazil, all Bishops, Priests, Deacons and all who minister in your church. We pray for the candidates for our National Indigenous Archbishop as the election draws near. Grant them wisdom as they discern their call. As her time of shepherding has come to an end we offer our thanks and deep gratitude today for the loving and caring interim ministry that The Reverend Elaine Clark Siberry has blessed us with over these past six months.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy

Creating God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly every day. May our eyes see the signs of hope and victory, the opportunities for loving service, for encouragement, reassurance and thanksgiving. We pray for peace and stability for the people of the Occupied Territories, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Yemen, Taiwan, Libya, and all corners of the world where there is conflict or civil unrest.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God we pray for this city of Stratford and all communities represented here today. We pray that God will bless our homes and families, our schools, our places of work and leisure with new life and the hope of new possibilities touching the ordinary with beauty and joy. We pray for the humility to accept guidance and warnings, lovingly given and the courage to uphold one another in the faith. We offer our thanks for the Connection Centre at St. Paul's, St. James Food Bank and St. Stephen's 'Our House' initiative. As with the hope of Advent they bring hope to those in our community who often feel they have little or no hope.

Creator Hear and Have Mercy,

Creating God, In love we bring to our prayers those who are weary with ongoing pain and weakness those who are frail with age, and all who are vulnerable. May the Lord pour his living strength into their lives and protect them from all that is harmful. Knowing that you know their needs we pray for bodies and spirits to be healed and for those who have asked us to pray for them: *Marilyn, Angela, Niki, Rob, Judy, Richard, Mary, Robert, Bob, Heather, David, Stephen, Doug, Jim, Maribel, Carol, Ellen, Nancy, Diane, Eric, Terry, Susan, Anne, Mary Lou, Ann, Olivia, Vivienne, Betty, Mary, Richard, Marion, Bob, Paul and the family that S.A.L.T. III is sponsoring as they finally are preparing to travel to Canada.*

Creator Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for those in our St. James family who are celebrating birthdays this week: *Nancy Packham, Pat Hagedorn, Polly Bohdanetzky, Jean Misener, Lynne Falshaw, Quenby Jessop, Milena Barlow, Darrell Brightwell* and anniversaries: *Linda and Larry Dietrich*. Let us always be mindful that there are many who are alone and feel they have nothing to celebrate and no one to celebrate with.

Creator Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, We pray for all those who have come to the end of their earthly life. And for those whose lives feel empty without them. The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of James Turnbull by his daughters: Peggy, Nancy & Jane. May he rest in peace and rise in glory, may light perpetual shine upon him. May the Lord give comfort to the bereaved, and everlasting peace to all who rest in his love.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy

“How desperately we need Advent! Its themes of hope, joy, peace and love awaken in us the promises we know to be true. . . . As we rub the pandemic sleep from our eyes, may we see that everything, from our seasonal preparations to the prophetic words echoing down through the centuries, contains the power to awaken in us the true work of this holy season: the transformation of the world, beginning with the renewal of our faith and the awakening of our hearts to the needs of others. May these little embers, the lectio of our lives, awaken within you renewed courage.”*

Amen

*AWAKEN, Advent Reflections by the Sisters and Oblates of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Frances Drolet-Smith, Oblate