

December 14th & 15th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Work with our Call Committee as they seek the next pastor who will proclaim the good news in this place. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. We give you thanks for the generous, beautiful gifts of creation with which you have blessed all people. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for all those whose lives are threatened or damaged by violence. Be with those who we carry in our hearts, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. . . (pause and count slowly to 10). Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. We give you thanks for those who continue to share their gifts of music, for those responsible for coordinating Undie

Sunday, the Silent Auction for IRAS, Monday Lunches, Christmas caroling, those who make quilts or prayer shawls or pocket squares, those who run our technology and all who reach out to serve, share, and care in so many ways. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died, especially Helen Martensen. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.