

November 29th & 30th – 1st Sunday of Advent

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. Continue to embrace Zion and other congregations as we search and wait for the pastor you would have lead us into our future. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, and to seek out ways to assure clean water throughout our world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. Prepare our hearts to become peace on earth for one another this advent. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing especially Todd, Mark, Joyce, Diane, Linda, Thomas and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day this December 1st. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. The holidays often bring mental health crises. Care for those in need and lead them to the services that will bring hope. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A God of hope, thank you for the hope that is proclaimed within these walls. May we take it out into the world and offer that hope—your hope— to all that we meet. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. Encourage our hearts as we remember those who have passed throughout this holiday season. Embrace all who mourn. God of grace,
hear our prayer.
- P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.