

PRAYERS for December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Assistant: As we await the coming of our Savior in mercy and majesty, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Lord God, as we continue our Advent journey, make this time truly be a blessing to us as we ready ourselves for the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We come together today with one voice to honor Your power, Your love, and Your kingdom. Thank You for giving us the determination to renew ourselves spiritually each day of this time of waiting. Thank You for giving us a spirit of optimism to lift up others and share the Good News during this Advent season. Thank You for reminding us that this is Your creation, and we should look for the best in it and trust You to take care of the rest.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, You raised up John the Baptist to witness to the coming of the Messiah. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Your Son, help us recognize the signs and be ready when our Lord and Savior comes back again. Make us heralds of good tidings, fearless in proclaiming Your Word and limitless in showing love to one another in our words and actions. Even when we might feel distant from You, we know that You never leave our sides; You touch our hearts; You calm our fears; You answer our doubts; and You restore our souls. Help us to always draw strength from these promises.

Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Gracious God, we are surrounded each day by those who doubt You and would cause us to lose hope. Continually renew our faith and remind us of Your eternal truths. We know that You have not forgotten Your promises, and in Your own time these promises have come true all through the ages. Help us to be patient for the coming of the new heaven and the new earth. Help us to be patient for Your will to be done. Help us to be patient as we do Your work and minister to others. You have no physical body on this earth, use ours. You have no physical hands on this earth, use ours. Be with the residents of Southland as we give them gifts to spread Your love to these special senior citizens.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: God of hope, so many people are in need of Your help this week. We humbly ask for Your healing hand upon all who are suffering illness, injury, loneliness, anxiety, or depression. It is through Your Son that we can find comfort. It is through Your Son that we know we never walk alone. It is through Your Son that we can find healing. We ask that the presence of the Holy Spirit be with all those who struggle with new, continuing, or worsening problems, and especially with the families of Oxford, Michigan. Be with all our friends and family members who are on our prayer list and those whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts. **(Wait at least 20 seconds for names.)** **Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

Worship Assistant: Our Father in heaven, bless and prosper the work of our congregation. Keep us steadfast in faith, fervent in our worship, patient in our struggles, and beautiful in our love for You and for Your people. Grant wisdom to our earthly leaders so as to level the mountains of injustice and division throughout our country. Grant courage to our police, military, medical personnel, and first responders and use them to restore safety in dangerous places.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer. **Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen