

**PRAYERS for December 19, 2021—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Worship Assistant:** On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, 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, Your ways are unknowable and unexpected. The tiny town of Bethlehem was home to not one but two kings; the young girl Mary became the mother of our Lord; humble shepherds were the fortunate audience of angels to celebrate Jesus' amazing birth. How lovely, how unpredictable. Teach us to guard our hearts from ironclad expectations that don't allow for Your unexpected ways. Give us ready hearts and minds that can see and join in the working of Your Peace in the world.

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

**Worship Assistant:** Father, we pray for a world that sits in darkness, waiting for someone they don't yet know. We know, though. Help us to share the glad tidings with everyone we meet this season—make our hearts light and our hands quick to serve others in all kinds of unexpected ways. It's a privilege to carry the light of Your Son Jesus. We are so grateful to participate in Your work in the world.

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

**Worship Assistant:** Compassionate Father, the Kentucky and Illinois clean-up continues. The storms are one more reminder of the broken Creation we live in. But those participating in the restoration remind us of Your love. We pray for those removing the building debris, for those preparing food, and for those who comfort and heal the many who are hurt. Likewise we pray for first responders and all those who protect our community, our state and nation. We are grateful for them, especially at this time of year when their service means a sacrifice of time with friends and family. Protect each one, give them guidance.

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

**Worship Assistant:** Gracious God, You put so many opportunities to serve You in our path, including here at Word of God. Thank you for the opportunity to provide gifts to the residents at Southland Nursing Home. We ask You to bless each recipient of a present, that they represent a small token of Your love. We pray for friends and family who gather in our building later this afternoon for the Coweta Fayette Music Recital. Give each performer the gift of clear-mindedness and recall and keep nerves to a minimum. We also pray for each member of Word of God as they go about their daily routines in our community, that they would carry Your love and light into every interaction this week. We know that members of our community are hurting today, Father, some physically, some spiritually. Care for each one, those whose names we say out loud and those whom we name silently in our hearts

(Wait 20 seconds for names.) **Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** For Jesus' sake, dear Father, graciously hear and generously answer our fervent petitions, to Your glory and for the benefit of all for whom we pray.

**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**