

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
The First Sunday of Advent – November 28, 2021

Intercessor: *Pam Ayres*

Creating God, gathered on this, the First Sunday in Advent, the Alpha, the beginning of a new liturgical year, we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of your son. We lay our prayers, petitions, praise, and concerns at your feet as we pray for our neighbours in Wisconsin and Michigan, for our sisters and brothers in British Columbia, and all the suffering people of this world. We pray for those affected by natural disasters, climate change, conflict of any kind, the marginalized and homeless, the refugees, and those who feel that they cannot pray, or have no one to pray for them.

Asking: Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

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. We give thanks for their deep faith that led them to value and care for this land for thousands of years. Teach us to care for this earth so that our children, their children, and their children can enjoy the bounty of your creation.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for the Church, Bishop Todd, and our ordinands, as they prepare for their ordination this Tuesday. Calm their hearts and minds, and remind them that God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray that you inspire with your wisdom those in authority, whose decisions affect the lives of others, and that they will lead us, and every people, into ways of justice and peace.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for our community of Stratford and all communities, that they be places where all God's children feel safe and secure in your loving arms.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, you are the God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Knowing their needs, hold in your healing presence all your servants and those who have asked us to pray for them: *Marilyn, Angela, Peter, Nikki, Rob, Ilene, Judy, Marion, Abby, Jack, Ulrika, Marilyn, Lisa, Alexia, Judy, Ed, Heidi & Jared, Jenelle, Richard, Mary, Robert, Bob, Heather, Yvonne.*

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

We pray for those in our St. James family who are celebrating birthdays this week: *Polly Bohdanetzky, Pat Hagedorn, Lynne Falshaw, Quenby Jessop, Jean Misener, Milena Barlow, Dorell Brightwell, Ron Fischer.*

Creating God, in our celebrations we pray that those who feel they have little, or nothing to celebrate, or anyone to celebrate with, will feel your loving presence and know that they are not alone.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one. **Today we keep in our prayers, the family and friends of former parishioner, Walter Bryant, who was laid to rest this week.** We pray for those who are near or fear death, and for those who have made their last journey from life to a greater life. We pray for the souls of the children who never returned. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, may light perpetual shine upon them.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice, and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

Amen.

**The Iona Community, Iona Abbey Worship Book*