**Intercessions for the Third Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we ask in faith.

We thank you for the Ministry of your Son, and we remember the

common faith which binds us all together, and our common mission to

bring your peace to all the nations of the world. We pray for all churches

everywhere, and for all those who serve them. We pray for the whole

Anglican Communion, for the Archbishop of Canterbury, and for all

primates and bishops, particularly for Timothy Thornton, Bishop of

the Falkland Islands, and Atle Sommerfeldt, Bishop of Borg in Norway.

We ask your blessing for Sarah our bishop, for Richard our archdeacon,

and for our own ministers David, Paulette and Jane.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We pray for the world and for all peoples. We pray for everybody working to defend democratic principles and the rule of law, putting into worldly form your disciples’ prayer to put down the mighty from their seat and to exalt the humble and meek. We thank you for all leaders who use their talents to work for solutions to the existential threats facing your world – climate change, inequality, prejudice and tyranny. Help us to recognise that we can all provide leadership in different ways, and that you expect us to do all that we can to work for good in your name, and not to rely on others to do so for us.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We pray for our families, friends and community. We ask particularly for your support for all those who live and work in Atwood Road, Perrers Road, Raynham Road, Redmore Road and Studland Street. As we move towards the joyous celebration of your son’s birth support us in continuing to exercise the discipline and self control that have helped us so far to contain the plague. Let us remember the example of the people of Eyam in a previous pandemic who sacrificed themselves to protect others, in response to your charge to love their neighbours as themselves, and without the wonderful work of our scientists and health services to give them hope.

As the Grenfell Enquiry continues to expose a network of lies, deceit, failure to accept responsibility, and putting money before lives, let us pray for all those who were victims of that disaster. We pray also for all those who were victims of the Summerland fire 47 years ago, who died or were damaged for life because of exactly the same mix of causes, and from which we learned nothing. Help us to ensure that we do not fail again to deliver justice for those who have suffered.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We ask you Lord to comfort and heal all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, and give your grace to all those who work for them. Support all those whose loved ones are in distress, and help us to give them strength and comfort. We pray particularly for

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, and according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

We pray particularly for

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

**And rise to glory.**

We pray with Mary

**Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.**