

God call us to pray...and so we pray:

Loving and faithful God, we give thanks for this day, this time, and this place. We are nearing the end of our journey through Advent, a road where we have remembered your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. A road with bumps and lumps, rough places and smooth. Help us make straight a highway.

Enlighten our minds and hearts to discover and hold fast to the true messages you give to us along our Advent journey.

We pray for your family throughout our community, and the world over who long for food, clothing, shelter, and peace. We pray for the residents of the Downtown Eastside, (some with homes, some without,) and all the neighbourhoods that are marginalized, considered outside society. We pray for those whose hands and hearts are wide open in these sacred places. May we have open eyes and hearts that we may see when, where and how to help.

Silently now, we bring to you our concerns for people and situations known to us. ...and already known to you.

We pray for all who feel the pain of separation this year. We pray for all who are apart and won't be able to share this time with loved ones. Help us to keep our gatherings small. Where two or more are gathered. We lament that sacred celebrations that won't be the same this year. But one thing is always the same - your presence, God. We are blessed.

Comfort and bring healing to the sick, the lonely, those who grieve and the prisoner in body, mind or spirit. We ask you to love these, and all, who are in need. We pray for those on our Prayer List. Help us remember each one. We add these names to our prayers;

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Gracious God, we pray for your Church throughout the world, for all churches, and our own Steveston United family. The birth of the Christ Child happened in the busy town of Bethlehem, but Joseph and Mary and their baby were alone in the stable. Just three.

You walk with us on the Advent journey; you are beside us on all our journeys. Help us to keep our hearts and minds focused on who, and what, you call us to be - as your children in relationship with you and each other. We ask this all in Jesus' name;

Holy One who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.
