**Advent Prayers: Week One 30th November**

**Monday: Advent Prayer: Living as light**

Heavenly Father we thank you for the people whose lives have been light in dark places. For all those who have impacted our lives in positive ways and helped us on our journey. We pray for ourselves that Your light may shine in us. Lord, we name before you those we know who are going through times of darkness. We think of them and ask, gracious God, that you may bring them light, hope, love and direction. In Jesus' name, Amen

**Tuesday: Advent Prayer: for those who are travelling.**

Heavenly Father as we think about how Joseph and Mary needed to travel to Bethlehem we pray for all those who are travelling today. We pray for those whose journeys are hard and dangerous, for those who are feeling anxious and worried about the journey they are on. Please protect and strengthen them and help them to trust in You as they travel. We pray also for those whose journeys are happy and hopeful and we thank You for such journeys as these in our own lives. We pray for ourselves that we may be ready to go where You call us. We thank You that You are always with us, there to lead us and to help us.

**Wednesday: Advent: Prayer for God’s guidance.**

Heavenly Father as we wait in anticipation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we remember the prophets who spoke of your coming and pointed the way to Your Kingdom. They knew as we do also that You came to bring justice, compassion and freedom and that You came into the world with love and gentleness. Guide us we pray in our conversations this day to speak of the hope that we have, to point people to You and share the joy that is ours in knowing that we are loved, and accepted by You. May our words lighten someone’s load today, may they bring joy, love and peace into the world. May the meditations of our heart and the words of our mouth be acceptable in Your sight today we pray.

**Thursday: Advent: Prayer for forgiveness.**

Heavenly Father we read in Your Word how your people longed for Your coming and yet when you came into the world as a baby so many failed to recognise You and were not prepared for You. Please forgive us we pray for those times when we have failed to recognise Your voice and have put our own selfish desires in place of doing Your Will. Our expectations are small and limited and so often we look at life from a human perspective rather than an eternal one. Help us we pray to be prepared for what You would have us do and say. Teach us to examine ourselves each day, our thoughts, words, attitudes and deeds so that we are open and ready for You to work in and through us.

**Friday: Advent: Prayer for ourselves.**

Father God we remember how Mary and Joseph anticipated and prepared for the arrival of a precious baby, the Saviour of the World. In this season of Advent we pray that You would prepare us. We want to be ready not only to recognise the ways in which You come to us today but also to welcome You when You come again to establish Your kingdom. Please save us from complacency and help us to live each day according to Your will and purpose, learning from You and growing in our love for You and others, open to what You would do in us and through us, happy to spend time in Your presence.

**Saturday: Ancient advent prayer by Gelasian 8th Century**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to make ready the way of your only Son,
so that by his coming we may worship you with pure minds;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.