

Triune God,

With the Psalmists we wait for you. Of course, in this season of Advent we wait liturgically for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord, and King. But we also wait for you day by day and hour by hour; we wait for you in the minutia of our lives, in the big moments of our lives, in every part of our lives. We confess that our waiting is not always the most patient or consistent. Sometimes we demand you to move, to act, to do exactly what we want you to do. Other times we do not wait for you at all and act as though our lives are our own.

Yet we know that in our waiting, we wait on *you*, the Lord God who is faithful from generation to generation. We profess with Scripture that your faithfulness endures forever, and when we feel lost or forgotten, we ask you to gently guide us back into your grace, into your forgiveness, into your love.

And then from that place, let us live grateful lives in joyful obedience to you, God. May we, as those who claim Christ, shine like stars in the world, as Paul says in Philippians 2. This world is in desperate need of your light and of the good news of Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to us so that we are able to communicate the good news, in who we are, in what we say, and in what we do. Fashion us into reflectors of the Light of the world.

Where there is darkness, Lord, bring light. Please be with Lynn and the entire family of Bob McBroom as they celebrate the life and mourn the death of a beloved man. Continue to watch over those with COVID-19 in our congregation, in our broader circles, and throughout the nation and world. Heal those recovering from other illnesses or injuries and bring your presence close to the isolated and lonely, especially as enter a holiday season so unlike typical years. Surround us all with tangible experiences of your love, dear God, and bring light to all our darkneses.

Triune God, we need Jesus. Our world needs Jesus, our country and our neighborhoods need Jesus, and we need Jesus. This Advent season, we are so grateful to be loved by you, and to receive the gift of union with you through Jesus Christ. And because we don't always know how best to pray, thank you for Jesus, who taught us to pray with these words:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.