

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession: December 13, 2020

Heavenly Father, Lord of all goodness and grace, we come before you this morning with hopeful expectation. We wait for you in this Advent season. We wait for your return and the coming of your kingdom. You are the hope of the earth. You alone can fill our longing hearts with joy and peace. You alone are worthy of our praise and adoration. We are grateful for your grace and mercy. In this season of Advent may we remember your promises and may your joy be planted deep inside each and every one of us.

God of faithfulness we praise you for your good and perfect plan. You walked alongside the Israelites of old and continue to walk alongside us each day. Even in the midst of uncertainty and sorrow you remain and your promises never fail. May we hold on to that truth. Let our joy be found not in our circumstances but in the knowledge that you keep your promises and never leave us.

Lord with the prophet Isaiah we ask that your Spirit of wisdom and understanding rest upon us. Give wisdom to doctors, nurses and researchers as they work to care for the sick and put an end to this virus. Lord, give understanding to our communities as we discuss differences and difficult topics, may we have the ability to listen to one another with grace. God of counsel and might guide the leaders of Calvin Church as we seek to continually cultivate fellowship and community in new ways.

With earnest hearts we pray, come thou long expected Jesus, come. Enter into our hearts and homes. As we navigate the holidays, we specifically pray for the lonely and those who are unable to see family this year. Wrap them in your presence and fill them with your love. God, walk alongside those battling depression and mental illness. In a time filled with celebration, it is difficult to feel the deep darkness of depression. Fill their hearts with your everlasting joy. Father, we think of those in our community who have lost loved ones and are grieving. We pray for those experiencing despair this season, give them a hope that comes from you alone. Lord be with those that don't have a safe place to go for the holidays. Whether it is due to homelessness, abuse, or other circumstances we pray for your protection and that you would fill them with your peace.

O Branch of Jesse's tree, you reach down into the darkness of the earth and bring your light. You share a message of deliverance and hope. Let this hope grow in us and cultivate a spirit of strength in you; so that we may work alongside you for the coming of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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.