**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** St. Paul encourages us to pray for what we need, ‘*asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving*’. With trust and confidence we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. For the Church: may she deepen a sense of expectant hope among God’s people as they prepare for the coming of the Lord of justice, peace and life. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For stability and hope in Syria: provide her people with solutions to rebuild their lives and nation on democratic principles, freedom and peace. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For peace in our world: where there is war, hatred, conflict or violence, may peacemakers bring news of a just and lasting peace. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those who live their lives in fear and anxiety because of intimidation and extortion. Free them from the influence and malice of others. Give them courage and strength to trust You are near. **Lord, hear us.**
5. In the busy chaos of preparations for Christmas, may our ‘*tolerance be evident to everyone’*. May our material preparations not blind us to God’s love made flesh and living among us. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For those preparing for baptism: as they ‘*draw water from the wells of salvation*’, fill them with a ‘*fire that will never go out’*. **Lord, hear us.**
7. Come, O come, Emmanuel. May your justice flourish in our time and may the fullness of your peace come to all who have placed their trust in you. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For the sick and their caregivers: that the healing hand of Christ may bring them strength and healing. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, teach us always to be patient in our waiting and trusting in our hope, that no prayer may go unanswered, no request be made in vain. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**