4th Advent Year C December 19th

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa – Haere mai. Good morning and a warm welcome to you, on this day, the fourth Sunday of Advent.

God Emmanuel is with us, and, just as many of us set out in haste at this time of year, Mary, a young mother to be, sets out in haste, on a journey to visit her relative, Elizabeth. I warmly welcome you to ………………………… (Parish name). Let us become silent for a moment, as we prepare to meet Jesus in this liturgy **(20 seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome! Let’s stand and sing together.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

The reader reads each petition. In the **silence**, the people pray in their own hearts for that petition. It is important to give a time of silence, so each person can form their prayer.

**For the Church** – that all the baptized will be bearers of Christ in all we do.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For national and international leaders –** that they will create a climate in which peace and understanding will grow among people of different religions or of no religion.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people facing financial hardship** – that they will not be overwhelmed by the difficulty of their situation, that they retain hope and that support will be provided for them.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For those awaiting the birth of a child** - that the time of waiting will be a sacred time as the birth of a new child is eagerly anticipated, and that the newborn child will be welcomed into a home of tenderness and care.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people who are travelling at this time of year –** that their journey will be safe, that they will consciously maintain the safety of others, and that their journey will bring them joy and lasting peace.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our local community of**………………….. That\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add a prayer for your local community.

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(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**Concluding Prayer:**

Eternal God, in the words of the prophets, and in the dream of Joseph your promise is spoken. Teach us to welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel, and to preach the good news of his coming, that every age may know him as the source of redemption and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**