2nd Advent Year A December 4th

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Welcome! Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is the first season of the Church year. A season where we look forward in joyful expectation to the coming of the Lord. Once again, we hear the call to turn, to change, to repent. Let us take a moment’s silence now, to prepare to encounter Jesus who comes to meet us. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** Whether you have come from near or far, I warmly welcome you to this community of, ………………………… (parish name). We gather here as one people, to celebrate the Eucharist and then be sent forth as Christ’s disciples. Let’s stand and sing.

***NOTE: a different response to the petition is offered.*** (Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

***If you use this response please ensure your Assembly knows how to respond.***

Silence after the petition is read is important. This silence gives people tie to pray.

Read the petition.

Be silent.

Say or sing the response.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that parishes and faith communities everywhere be places of welcome and encouragement, places where divisions are healed and enemies seek peace with each other.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For leaders of nations where there is civil unrest or war –** that they work cooperatively and pursue peace earnestly, understanding that the advent of peace will require their willingness to change and seek new solutions to problems.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For children who have a parent in prison –** that they will not be overwhelmed by a sense of shame and stigma, but will be accepted, loved, and supported to live lives of happiness and dignity.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For people who are lonely** – that they have the support they need to form relationships of mutual care, love, respect and understanding.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For all people –** that we seek to live in greater harmony with nature, learning not to harm or destroy, but preserve and care.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For our local community of … (what are the needs of your locality – housing, health, truancy, an accident… Please discern the needs of your locality and compose a petition.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Concluding Prayer**

O God, who commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, nourish us inwardly with your word of life and enlighten the eyes of our spirit that we may rejoice in the sight of your glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever…. **Amen**