4th Advent Year A December 18th

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator~~)~~

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.

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Welcome! Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We gather this morning with a sense of anticipation, knowing that our time of waiting for the Lord soon comes to fullness. I welcome everyone here this morning – and a special welcome to anyone from out of town. It is good to have you with us, as once again we come together as one people, the body of Christ. To prepare to encounter Jesus who comes to meet us in this Eucharist, let us be silent now. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome to ……………………… (*parish name*). Let us 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.***

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that all the baptized take up the call to mission and seek to bring forth the kingdom of God in their daily living.

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

**For leaders of nations –** that they attend with compassion to the plight of refugees throughout the world and strive earnestly to end all war and civil unrest.

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

**For mothers, fathers and families preparing for the birth of a child –** that they look forward with joy to welcoming the newborn baby, that they provide a safe home filled with love, care and kindness.

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

**For the people of our nation –** that people grow in the desire to do what is kind and right, to act justly and with regard for their neighbour and consideration for those we share our roads, parks and markets with.

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

**For people travelling by road this holiday season** – that they drive with caution, courtesy and patience, focusing on the care and safety of themselves and other road users.

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

**For families struggling to make ends meet** – that communities will find ways to support and that the holiday season will bring support not stress.

**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**

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. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever…**Amen**