

## **PRESIDER**

Dear friends, with John the Baptist we keep watch for the advent of God's Anointed One. In peace we pray for the needs of the church and the world.

## **READER**

We pray for Pope Francis. May his missionary journeys to lands near and far proclaim God's gift of salvation for the whole human family. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Christian communities around the world. May they be blessed with the happiness and peace that the apostle Paul wished for the church at Philippi. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all earth's peoples. May John the Baptist's call to integrity, justice and generosity herald the dawn of a new human solidarity. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the children who have been baptised, confirmed, made their First Holy Communion or celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation this year. May the sacraments they have received bear lasting fruit in their lives. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for one another at this busy time of the year. May we take time to reflect on our blessings and give thanks for them. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they rejoice forever in the new and heavenly Jerusalem. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

## **PRESIDER**

God of grace and mercy, you anointed your Son with the oil of gladness. Bless our world, we pray, with the gift of peace. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.