

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And then the Word became flesh and made his home among us.” John 1:14

O Loving, Amazing, Unfathomable God, it really is beyond our comprehension to fully understand what it means for the Creator God of the universe, at home in the peacefulness, the beauty, the love, the comfort, the glory of your eternal kingdom, to want to leave that, and come and be a flesh and blood human being. To be part of this world that is full of pain, suffering, cruelty, confusion, uncertainty, illness, and more. Why, Lord? Why would you want to put yourself squarely in our shoes, and fully experience all that we go through? To share in our struggles, our difficulties, our fears, our frailties. What kind of love is that? And yet, O Lord, we know that it is a love that is persistent, that is unwavering, that is unconditional and that is complete. Yours is a love that indeed bears all things, hopes all things, believes all things and endures all things. When we hurt you, you don't lash out, you don't give us the silent treatment, you don't turn away, instead you continue to want us, to want to bring us back into a right relationship with you. When we lose our way and do that which we shouldn't, you are not there shaking your finger at us, rather you are there ready to forgive us if we just ask. When we, like the prodigal son, want to go off and do things our way, on our time, you don't force us to other action, instead, you allow us to use our gift of free will to go our way, and yet you are always there, ready to welcome us back, with open arms and forgiving love. That is why you came. To show us just how much you do love us. To show us how much you want to bring us to you, and save us from the perils we so often make for ourselves. And so Lord, we pray that in this final week of Advent, that we would not only reflect on the love you have for us, but how we show you our love for you. Through our worship, our prayer, and mostly through how we love others. We remember that Jesus said, “Love, as I have loved you.” Help us to do so, O God.

And it is others we think about now, as we lift them up in prayer. You have heard....

In the spirit of praise and worship and the joy and music of this day, we offer our voices together as we sing the prayer Jesus taught us.