

Rev. Tony Evans “God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go.”

O loving God, forgiving God of hope and promise, we are grateful for this day, for this time of worship, and for the Advent season that is upon us, as we await, once again, the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, and all that means for us. And we are grateful too, that you do indeed meet us where we are. For we confess that we are often in different places. Sometimes we have that faith of a mustard seed, believing that you can do all things, and other times we confess that our faith falters, and we find it difficult to believe you really care, we wonder where you are. Sometimes our hearts are filled with compassion, and we are willing to reach out, to sacrifice, to give. Other times we confess that we are self-centered and stingy with our time, our patience, our money. Sometimes we walk in humility, submitting ourselves to your will, and other times we confess we want you to work and act in our time and in our way. And so Lord, forgive us and thank you for meeting us where we are. And thank you also that you want to take us to someplace new. To higher living. To more holy living. To more Christ-like living. And especially in this season where we celebrate that you want to come into our lives, may we have the desire and the commitment to put you first, to follow you and your ways, even when it is difficult. Trusting in your presence, your peace, your hope and your guidance in all we do.

Lord, we come with both that for which we are grateful and joyful, and we come with that which weighs heavy on our minds. We think of the world around us, and we think of those close to us. And for these we pray. You have heard those on our prayer list, but hear us now, as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.