

**PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE**



A Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

God of creation

Quiet our mouths
Quiet our minds
Quiet our hearts

We remember the words of the angels spoken to frightened shepherds in Beit Sahour.
Fear not
Fear not, for behold, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

And today the shepherds of Beit Sahour, and all those living under occupation,
wonder when this promise might include them too.

What does it mean to all these men, women and children walking in darkness
Trapped behind concrete walls
That “unto us a Child is born”?
What does it mean to us that we call this Child “Savior”?

In the form of the vulnerable
The forsaken
The irrelevant

God of justice

Cleanse our mouths
Cleanse our minds
Cleanse our hearts

Until we truly believe and stand with these and all those who are oppressed and held captive to fear and violence.
Until we truly believe and remember that You once chose to come into the world as a poor, vulnerable child.
Until we truly believe and follow the One who came to lift the lowly, set free the oppressed, and bring new light and love into the world.
Until we truly believe in your Word made flesh, who dwells among us still, who proclaims that every child deserves love, justice, hope and a fair share of the blessings of creation.

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Prayer, continued...

The children of Palestine
The children on Pine Ridge
The children at Water Street
They still wait patiently

What are we waiting for?

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

*Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison*

God of steadfast love

During this season of Advent

In somber preparation
In joyful expectation and hope
Fill us with joy and newness of life

So that we may take joy and live for one another in new and creative ways.
So that the voices of our sisters and brothers that are so often dismissed,
silenced, and dehumanized speak loudly to us.
So that we might see that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did
not overcome it.

Amen

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