

Pastor Prayers: Eternal God, Alpha and Omega, who stands at the end and the beginning of our lives, we worship you. In this season when your people prepare again for the Advent of our Savior, we do especially recall how you took our hate and met it with your love, took our death and deadliness and transformed it into new life, took our tiredness and met it with a baby in a manger.

Having witnessed your solidarity with the human race and all our care, in your incarnation, we are therefore bold to pray for all brethren and sisters caught in entanglements of hate, death, or sin.

We pray for all those who feel trapped in habits they are unable, by themselves, to overcome. O God of triumph, help them to overcome.

We pray for those here today who find it difficult to believe. O God, whose angels confronted the doubts of Zedechiah and Mary, assuage our doubts and bring us to sure faith.

We pray for those who, in this season of joy, suffer from great sadness, the terminally ill, the severely injured, the victims of crime, those who have lost loved ones. O God of life, who disarmed arrogant King Herod and came to

earth among the poor and the lonely, Come
among us and stand beside those who hurt.

We pray for people and needs that lay heavily
on our hearts this day, which we now name
in our hearts. Teach us to hurt with and
act for others. Because you did not leave
us to our own devices, but came and
stood beside us, because one of us, our
Brother, our Saviour, our Friend, we know
that we can turn to you in prayer, asking
things that we once regarded as impossible,
knowing that now, by your grace, all is
possible. Amen

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