

---

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

---

*Great expectations.*

*Jesus fulfils the great statements of prophecy.*

Knowing that our God loves us and listens,  
let us pray to him now.

Lord, your Church is so full of possibility  
and yet so vulnerable;  
it is so urgently needed by our world and yet often so weak;  
strengthen each member of the body  
and increase our sense of expectation  
so that we live with your life.

*Silence*

Faithful God:  
**you are the rock we stand on.**

Lord, in our constantly changing world,  
with its shifting values and fragile ecological balance,  
root us deeply in your unchanging nature  
of mercy, goodness, faithfulness and love.

*Silence*

Faithful God:  
**you are the rock we stand on.**

Lord, we welcome you into our homes,  
our streets, and our communities;  
where we are blind to your presence, give us sight;  
in the ordinary and the remarkable,  
help us to recognise our true and living God.

*Silence*

Faithful God:  
**you are the rock we stand on.**

Lord, all the needs of your children  
are known to you;  
with God-given love we bring to mind  
those who are suffering physically,  
spiritually or emotionally,  
that they may find you there beside them  
in these dark and painful times.

*Silence*

Faithful God:  
**you are the rock we stand on.**

Lord, to whom eternity is natural,  
help us to realise that time is not the whole story,  
and welcome into your kingdom  
those who have lived this life in your company  
and have now passed through death;  
comfort those of us here  
whose hearts are heavy with grieving.

*Silence*

Faithful God:  
**you are the rock we stand on.**

Lord, awaken us to expect you with joy;  
we give you thanks for your tender parenting  
and your unfailing patience with us.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**