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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*Through the willing participation of Mary and Joseph,  
God is poised to come among his people as their Saviour.*

Let us quieten ourselves to notice our God,  
here with us now,  
and attentive to our deepest needs.

Lord, we long for our Church to be alive and active,  
attentive to you,  
and ready to go wherever you suggest.  
Show us the work of the Church  
from your point of view,  
and develop our will to co-operate.

*Silence*

We call on your name, O God:  
**restore us and revive us.**

Lord, we long for your kingdom  
to come in our world,  
and to flood with truth and love  
the disillusion, hopelessness and terror  
which traps the human spirit  
and chokes its potential joy.

*Silence*

We call on your name, O God:  
**restore us and revive us.**

Lord, come into the daily relationships  
we so easily take for granted,

and enable us to value one another,  
delighting in one another's richness,  
and responding to one another's needs with love.

*Silence*

We call on your name, O God:  
**restore us and revive us.**

Lord, you know the need and pain  
of those we love and worry about.  
As you look after them,  
give them the sense of your caring presence  
to uphold and sustain them.

*Silence*

We call on your name, O God:  
**restore us and revive us.**

Lord, for us death can seem so cruel;  
give us a better understanding of eternity,  
and gather into your kingdom all those  
whose earthly journey has come to an end.

*Silence*

We call on your name, O God:  
**restore us and revive us.**

Thank you, Lord of hope,  
for the way you surprise us with joy,  
and show us the extraordinary and the wonderful  
in the ordinary things of life.

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