

Celebrant: Dear friends, with bold faith in God, Mary and Elizabeth brought everlasting joy to birth in the world. Trusting in God's word as they did, let us pray for the rebirth of creation.

- 1** For church communities around the world: That they will be joyful centres of hospitality, grace and peace. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
Lord hear our prayer.
- 2** We pray for world leaders who proclaim the Christian message of hope: may their words be put into action for the betterment of their people. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 3** For all survivors of forgotten conflicts and disasters: that efforts to bring them relief will be sustained for as long as needed. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 4** For those awaiting the birth of a child: may they, like Mary, be filled with wonder at God's gift of life. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 5** We pray or the two children being confirmed this weekend and our faith community, that in this last week of Advent we will prepare prayerfully for the birth of the Saviour. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 6** We pray for our sick relatives and friends, and for all who feel forgotten in their hour of need. We pray for those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they enjoy eternal peace in God's kingdom. [pause] **Lord hear us.**

Celebrant:

**All-holy God,
Mary placed her life in your hands
and acclaimed the greatness of your name.
Help us to make her faith our own.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**