

PRAYER FROM DEC. 6 VIGIL

CHRISTMAS BOX ANGEL OF HOPE-2021- High winds hard to hear but below is my part  
FROM THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH, WE HEAR GOD'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DEPTH OF GRIEF OVER  
THE LOSS OF CHILDREN:

"A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WAILING AND LOUD LAMENTATION, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN, SHE  
REFUSED TO BE CONSOLED BECAUSE THEY ARE NO MORE."

YET, WE ALSO HEAR GOD'S WORD SPOKEN BY JESUS, WHO PROMISED THOSE WHO MOURN WILL ONE DAY FEEL THE  
BLESSING OF COMFORT.

AND FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION, WE HEAR THE PROMISE THAT ONE DAY EVERY TEAR WILL BE WIPED AWAY.  
IN THE MEANTIME, WE GATHER TONIGHT AS PARENTS, GRANPARENTS, AND OTHER RELATIVES, AS WELL AS  
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO REMEMBER CHILDREN LOVED AND LOST.

IT IS FITTING WE DO SO AT THE TIME OF YEAR, WHEN MUCH OF THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF CHRIST,  
FOR GOD SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO DIE, SO HE MIGHT BECOME OUR SAVIOR.

SO, AS WE GATHER AROUND THIS SPECIAL STAUPE OF THE ANGEL OF HOPE, LET US SEEK THE COMPANIONSHIP OF  
ONE ANOTHER, AND LOOK TO THE LIGHT OF THE CANDLES TO REMIND US OF JESUS WHO IS THE LIGHT OF THE  
WORLD.

AND MAY THE GLOW OF THESE CANDLES ALSO REMIND US OF THE LIGHT OF THE LIFE- OF EACH CHILD  
REMEMBERED TONIGHT, WHICH SHINES IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

LET US PRAY:

HEAVENLY FATHER, AS JESUS GATHERED THE CHILDREN AROUND HIM WHEN HE LIVED ON EARTH, GIVE US HOPE  
AND FAITH HE HAS GATHERED THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE LEFT THIS WORLD, AROUND HIM IN HEAVEN.

KEEP IN YOUR CARE, WE PRAY, ALL WHO MOURN, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WHEN SOCIETY SAYS WE  
SHOULD BE MERRY.

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH TO GET THROUGH EACH DAY, AND COMFORT IN OUR GRIEF.

AND WHERE THOSE AMONG US CAN NOT YET BE COMFORTED, ENFOLD THEM IN YOUR LOVE AND PRESENCE.

BLESS OUR MEMORIES, AND SUSTAIN US IN OUR SORROW. GIVE US COURAGE TO LIVE EACH DAY, AND FAITH IN THE  
HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, THROUGH YOUR SON, IN WHOSE NAME WE PRAY. AMEN