

## **DIAKONIA Prayer December**

Advent has begun. As in other parts of the world here in Aotearoa New Zealand we are grappling with the ongoing effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and the measures taken to limit its deadly spread. The consequences on economic, social and family life are widespread as they are for you all.

Here for the churches there is now another distressing dilemma. There are among church congregations people who are vaccinated against the virus and feel confident to mix with those who have chosen not to be vaccinated. There are also those who are vaccinated but because of heightened vulnerability to disease of any kind are reluctant to mix with, and worship with, those who are unvaccinated and therefore more likely to catch and spread the disease.

Government regulation around the size of social gatherings and whether vaccination passports are required for church gatherings is another factor. Our church leaders and congregations are praying for wisdom as they grapple with this.

How do we all continue to worship in unity and fellowship as the Body of Christ without hastening the spread of the disease and endangering the lives of the most vulnerable?

### **We pray:**

Almighty God, you have given the Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us in all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence your Church and its leaders at this special time of Advent. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love through all our deliberations that we may continue to manifest your glory and prepare the way of your Kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Rev. Anne Russell-Brighty, New Zealand, DAP Vice President