

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for Christmas Night. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night,

heaven in earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth

brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Christ the light of the world has come

to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,

you sent your Son full of grace and truth:

forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,

you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,

your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray:

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Sermon : see additional attachment

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, *in this holy night* your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the
darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on
earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of
joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's
birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Father, *in this holy night* angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints

through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.