

## **Prayers of the People: Christmas & Christmas I**

As we join the angels and shepherds to celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who shines the light of Christ on all creation, saying: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

For the Church in all places, remembering especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that our worship and praise may give glory to God, and our witness and ministry bring new hope to many. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For this Parish Family, that by the grace of Christ's coming among us we may live upright and godly lives, and bear witness to God's love. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For all who live in Bethlehem and the hill country of Judah, and for Christians, Jews and Muslims everywhere, that God's spirit will open new pathways of peace and hope to all who live in danger and fear. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For those who live and work in places of trouble and violence, that the Prince of Peace will guide all hearts to strive for peace and justice. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For all who find Christmas difficult, for those whose lives are touched by fear, anxiety or depression, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially, ..... that Christ will bring healing and light to their hearts. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For all the blessings God has given us, that we may receive them thankfully and rejoice that Christ is born again in our hearts and lives. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For those who have died, remembering especially all those in whose memory the Christmas flowers and decorations are given, that they may rejoice in the light of God's incarnate Word. ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, and with all the saints and angels, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***Glory to you, O Lord our God.***

**Celebrant: Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May the Rising Sun of Christ spread across the world and brighten all humanity. Glory to God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

**A Christmas Blessing:**

**May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

*These prayers may also be used on Christmas I with the following changes to the introduction, response and closing collect:*

As we join with the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us until the end of time. By the mystery of the Word made flesh, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant**

**Source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer this day, and grant that we may come to see the true light which shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity. Glory to God for ever and ever. AMEN**