

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTMAS DAY

Leader: Standing or kneeling, let us pray.

WAIT FOR PEOPLE TO FIND THE PAGE AND KNEEL IF THEY WISH. DO NOT BEGIN UNTIL YOU LOOK UP AND SEE THAT PEOPLE ARE READY TO CONTINUE.

God sent His son to live among us: let us pray in the confidence of our new life in him.

Rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Savior, we pray that the Church may be continually reborn. Let us share the humility of the manger, the adoration of the shepherds, and the love of the Holy Family, in the light of him who is the Light of the world.

[a few seconds of silence]

Show pity and pardon, O Lord, on this world of conflict, deaf to the message of peace. Bring harmony where there is strife between nations and where people are divided by suspicion and bitterness. Heal those who have no peace within themselves.

[a few seconds of silence]

We pray for the families and friends with whom we celebrate this happy time. Give us true love, unselfish desires, and grateful hearts. We pray especially for the world's children, for their unclouded joy at this time. Create in us a pattern of human love that will lead them to the love of God who sent his Son as a little child.

[a few seconds of silence]

We pray for those who cannot feel the joy of Christmas, through the burden of sickness, bereavement, or other distress, especially:

Comfort with your presence all who are separated at this time from those they love. Bring the light of Christ into all our lives.

[a few seconds of silence]

Have mercy on the departed who, having shared with Christ their human birth and infancy, have shared with him also the death of the body. We remember especially

Make their joy complete, in the Kingdom where there is neither birth nor death but abundant life without end.

[a few seconds of silence]

We pray all these things through Christ who is the hope of the nations and the joy of all people.

AMEN