

Prayer of the Church
Christmas Eve/Vigil
24 December 2023

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God Almighty, on this most holy night we come before You in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful pastors to proclaim the good tidings of His birth, and give to Your people willing ears to hear and believe. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You sent an angel to reveal to Joseph that the Child in Mary's womb was Your own, preserving their marriage and family. Preserve our homes also by Your Holy Word. Fill them with Your grace, that husbands and wives, parents and children may live in peace and love with one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the One born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon those You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You love us and sent Your Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Strengthen us to love one another. As You have mercy upon all who are poor and troubled, so perfect Your love in us, that we would gladly be Your instruments of help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver and Preserver of life, Your Son came to save us from sin and its curse. Hear the pleas of all who call to You for mercy. Deliver them from affliction according to Your will, and work in them steadfast faith to cling to the life they have in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, guard in safety all emergency workers and those whose vocations keep them from their families for our well-being this evening. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we may confess Him and remain in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**