

## Christmas Prayer 2020

All nights are holy, O God, we know – and on this night we give thanks for special sanctity.

All angels' songs are joyful, O God, we know – and on this night we marvel on the hillsides to the strains of one wondrous song.

All infants are blessed, O God, we know – and on this night we lift praise for one particular child.

On this holy night, to the accompaniment of angelic harmonies, we praise you for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem's stable, welcomed by shepherds, warmed by bands of cloth, sung to sleep by anxious first-time father and exhausted first-time mother.

Let the holiness of this night, the joy of these angels' song, the blessing of this infant flow into the deep night of our days. Where there is fear and sorrow, may hearts be lifted. Where there is greed and domination, O God, may hearts be changed. Where there is poverty and need, O God, may bellies be filled. Where there is self-righteousness and self-satisfaction, O God, may hubris be emptied.

Let the holiness of this night renew the holiness of all nights. Let the joy of these angels become the joy of all people. Let the blessing of this infant make blessed all the children of the world, the little children, the growing children, the adult children, the kupuna children.

For in the birth of Christ you have joined those created in your image, and so the world and all its people changed. Thank you for this holy night. Thank you for this joyful song. Thank you for this blessed child.

Holy One, embrace us in your blessing on this Christmas and eternally.

Amen.