

Christmas Prayer
December 24, 2024

O God of the stable, the manger, and the child,

Thank you for blessing us in the chaos and the commonness of a child's birth. Thank you for giving a place to a mother and a father, to shepherds on a hill, to a midwife in the night, to bring your gracious incarnation into the world and to rejoice that you are with us.

May we take inspiration from those who cared for Jesus long ago. May we embrace those around us like a new mother. May we support them like a first-time father. May we encourage them in their living like a shepherd with a flock. May we help them into the places they should be as a midwife eases the passage of a child into the light.

We pray for the millions who worship in celebration on this Christmas Eve. May they, too, find their roles in help, support, guidance, inspiration, creation, healing, building, and renewing of their friends, their families, their neighbors, their communities, and your Church. May they be led by your Holy Spirit, the same one which guided the angels in their song. May they be assured by your constant loving presence that by their efforts, your love flows more freely in the world. May they find joy in the work as well as in receiving your grace.

Tonight we celebrate, tomorrow we share in giving and receiving. Beyond that lie the realities of sorrow and illness, suffering and grief. Be with us in our joyful times, O God, and bring your comfort to the places of deep need.

As you did two thousand years ago, let your peace be born in the hearts of human beings, and your grace spring forth as a fountain of blessing, in the stillness of a newborn's slumbers.

Amen.