

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession for 12/25/20

Faithful God, On this Christmas day we come before you with gratitude and praise. Words cannot express how grateful we are for the gift you have given us in Jesus. What joy is it to know that our waiting is not in vain, for Christ has come. We celebrate you year after year because the promise of Christmas never ends. We lift our voices to praise you today because you are here, the Messiah has come.

Almighty God, we are amazed by who you are and what you have done for us. How you sent your son out of your great love for us, bestowing upon us the best gift we could imagine. Lord you did not send Jesus to us with a crown or throne. But he came humbly as a baby to dwell with us, be with us and bring us life. In him alone we are forgiven and free. Our life, hope and joy are all found in you. Just as the shepherds were eager to meet the Messiah and share the good news with the world, we are eager to experience your presence and share your love with others. With the magi, we are assured that when we seek you, we will find you, so we seek after you today. Lord, we sing with the angels and lift our voices in praise, declaring “glory to God in the highest heaven”.

Today and every day, Lord draw us to yourself so that we might experience your love. Open our hearts to receive the good news of Christmas and share it with those around us.

As we celebrate in different ways this season, we pray that we do not lose sight of the hope that we have. The joy of Christmas is not in large parties or exchanging gifts. Our hope and joy is in knowing that Christ came to be with us and bring us salvation. You hear us when we pray, care for us and love us. You sent Jesus to our desperate world to bring light. And you invite us to live in his light and walk in the way of peace as we follow him. We pray that we will remember that and experience your peace and love today.

God, we acknowledge that for many of us Christmas is not the same this year. Some of us mourn the loss of dear loved ones. We pray specifically for those grieving the loss of children, through miscarriage or infertility. Father, wrap them in your comfort and may they feel your presence today. Gracious God, fill the brokenhearted and lonely with your presence. Bring healing to the sick. Shine your light into the darkness of our lives and of this world. On this day of celebration, many of us admit that we are weary. Heavenly Father, it has been a long year for our church, our community and our world. At times it can be difficult to find reason to rejoice. But even in the struggles of this year you have been there. You have been faithful and ever present. So on this Christmas day, remind us that our joy is found in you alone. We desire your hope and peace in our hearts and in our world, and pray that your kingdom come.

Everlasting Father, we lift these prayers to you in confidence, knowing that you hear us. As we continue to celebrate you today, we pray that our conversations and interactions would bring you glory and praise. We pray this in the name of our Savior, Immanuel who taught us to pray: **Our Father...**