



At-home Christmas service



And readings and prayers for the 12
days of Christmas

Meno Makosê kisikâw
✙ *Merry Christmas!*

December 25 – Christmas Day

Opening Sentence

I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Carol (choose your own)

A reading from the book of Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *

has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *

his righteousness has he openly shown in

the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

*Lord God, we see your righteous rule in all your works, and we
join our voices with the song of your whole creation in praising
you, in and through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen*

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways
by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a
Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he
also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and
the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things
by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having
become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs.

Christmas Carol (choose your own!)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ!

From Wanderers to Wonderers by the Ven Dr. Kara Mandryk

I have a confession – I have sung “I Wonder as I Wander” many, many times in my life. And each time, I sang “for poor ORDINARY people like you and like I.” Every single time! You can imagine my surprise when I actually looked at the lyrics and saw that Jesus came to die not for the ordinary, but the “ornery.”

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
That Jesus my Savior did come for to die*

For poor ornery people like you and like I ...

For poor ornery people like you and like I.

You know, I can handle being ordinary – ordinary is not so bad. But ornery? No one wants to be called ornery! And yet, many of us have a pretty substantial ornery streak within us. Cantankerous, stubborn, disagreeable – that’s the meaning of ornery. It’s not a pretty picture. Certainly not the picture we want to paint while trying to experience a warm, cozy Christmas. Certainly not the picture we want when we’re trying to focus on the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The trouble is that this holy infant so tender and mild, is born into a pretty disagreeable place. And I’m not just talking about that poor lowly stable of his birth, or even Herod the King in his raging. This story that we are about to enter isn’t all that pretty. It’s a story of loss, when Adam and Eve, who had been enlivened by the very breath of God and walked in the very presence of God without shame, chose to go their own stubborn way and ended up bound to death and in a broken relationship with God and God’s creation. And ever since, with woes and strife the world has suffered long for as far as the curse is found.

It’s a story of poor ornery people like you and like I.

But it’s also a story of great hope and promise with tidings of comfort and joy. Because from that very first moment of brokenness, God has put a plan in place – a restoration operation if you will. We see that plan in the promise given to Abraham through his descendants - that all nations will be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3), or as the prophet Isaiah puts it; “The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). But if you know anything of the Biblical narrative in particular, or the human narrative in general, it is absolutely full of poor ornery people like you and like I. In fact, ornery seems

to be ordinary in the story of human history, and the people of God are sadly no exception. It would take something extraordinary to disperse the gloomy clouds of night and bid our sad divisions cease.

Enter Emmanuel – God with us. No ordinary child, but the Lord of all creation and the Saviour of all. God’s answer to brokenness and darkness and death – true man, yet very God, from sin and death now saves us and shares our every load. Jesus shares our every load – even poor, ornery people like you and like I. This, of course, is the key to God’s plan, to the restoration operation. Jesus isn’t just the baby on Mary’s lap, sleeping. Jesus lived **as** us – tears and smiles like us he knew, and Jesus lived **with** us– poor, and mean, and lowly. He is God’s loving restoration operation.

If we really want to be in the story, the real story, not the softened edges, candle-lit, sanitised version of the story, we’ve got to face up to a couple of truths. First: We’re the poor ornery people. We don’t like it, but we have to admit it’s true. Second: we have a saviour in Jesus that shares that load and abides with us. I believe there is no other single sentence that is more significant in the Bible than the one you will hear in the Christmas Gospel reading from John 1:14: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s restoration operation and beginning of the new creation, a place where heaven and nature sing. That is the most extraordinary thing, beyond anything we could ask or imagine! This truth is beautifully expressed in these extraordinary, powerful and truth-filled words for poor ornery people like you and like I, from the glorious carol “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”:

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.*

The extraordinary life of Jesus is available to us all – and there is nothing ordinary about that! Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find Him.

Christmas Carol (choose your own)

Prayers (from the heart or the litany at the end of this booklet)

Collect

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Carol (choose your own)

Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten our hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God alight, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*You might have noticed that there have been lines from Christmas carols throughout this reflection –Maybe later you can do a Christmas carol lyric scavenger hunt! Or, if you just want to listen to the carols, our Bishop, the Right Reverend William Cliff has put together a Spotify playlist of the Christmas carols referenced in this reflection – you can find it at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0N4IPvw7UrRFz8UbwbQ00I?si=8468a33868fd4e8e>

December 26 – The Feast of St. Stephen

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day – Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord’s Prayer (*last three pages of this booklet*)

December 27

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day – Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day - Matthew 2:13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord’s Prayer (*last three pages of this booklet*)

December 29

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day – Matthew 2:13-18

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord’s Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



December 30

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day - Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



December 31

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day - Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord’s Prayer (*last three pages of this booklet*)

January 1 – The Naming of Jesus

Opening Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel of the Day – Luke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer (*last three pages of this booklet*)

January 2

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day – Luke 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many

in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord’s Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



January 3

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day – Luke 36-40

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



January 4

Opening Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel of the Day – Luke 41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer (*last three pages of this booklet*)

January 5

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gospel of the Day - John 1:15-28

John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord” ’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Litany and The Lord's Prayer *(last three pages of this booklet)*



**A litany for the 12 days of Christmas
offered by the Rt. Rev. William Cliff**

We rejoice with all creation at the birth of the child Jesus. Let us pray for the whole world He came to save.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the love you have shown us in the birth of Jesus. Help us to share the humility of his manger; and in that humility let us love one another as sisters and brothers of the holy child.

O come let us adore him.

Faithful God, with Mary and Joseph we give thanks for the care and concern which surrounds us. Help us make our families places of light and health. As Jesus is the light of the world, strengthen and guide our parents and elders, and help us to listen as they lead the way.

O come let us adore him.

Loving God, the Shepherds were surprised by the announcement of the birth of Jesus. Help us to see Jesus in the poor, the sick, the hungry and those whom the world might think unimportant. We know that to you, all are precious. Make us aware of those whose lives and work make possible our own life.

O come let us adore him.

God of Glory, you sent Angels to sing a song of glory to announce the birth of Jesus. Give us tongues to proclaim your glory that we might speak to your love, and wings to speed us to the places where our hands are needed to work. Make us witnesses of all your goodness and loving kindness.

O come let us adore him.

Father of comfort, like the Innkeeper, stretch us to think of new ways to help those in need. Grow our hearts to make room for those who serve others. Bless all the nurses and aides who care for the sick.

Keep watch with those who keep us safe and make us all willing to make room for the unexpected stranger.

O come let us adore him.

Lord of hosts, protect us from those like Herod, who would destroy and hurt those who are no threat because they fear to lose their power. Guide and give wisdom to all earthly rulers; make them wise in their willingness to govern according to your word. Give patience and protection to all who currently wait to be liberated from the rule of those who do not serve their people.

O come let us adore him.

Bless and comfort all parents who have lost children. Reveal yourself to those who grieve and cannot find comfort. Give rest to those we love and have lost. Remember those who have died who have no one to remember them. In the midst of the holidays, help us to comfort those for whom this time of year brings pain, loneliness or despair. Be their light and their peace.

O come let us adore him.

Make us wise enough to seek after you and, like the Wise Men, willing to open our treasures to you for your glory. Be with all those who travel or are on the roads and make a straight path home for all those who are seeking a way.

O come let us adore him.

Merciful Father, grant these prayers through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.**



The Prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer:

Cree:

Nohtâwînan kîcikîsikok ê-ayâyan
kita wî kanâtênitâkwan kiwînwîn
kitipênîcikêwin kita wî ocîcipanîw
ê-itênîtaman kita wî itôhcikâtêw
ôta askihk kê isi ayâk kîcikîsikôhk
mîninân anôhc kâkîsikâk ka oci pimatisîyak
mîna asênamawinân nimacîtiwinâna
kê isi asênamawakîcik anikik kê wanitôtâkowâkok
mîna kawîna itôhtawinan kôtênimikôwinihk
mâka mîtakwinamawinan maci kêkwon
kina ki tayan tipênîcikêwin mîna sôkâtisîwin
mîna kistênitâkosiwin
anoc mîna kâkikê
êmen

English:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

