

**Prayers of the People** *(Adapted from Sundays and Seasons)*

**Deacon** This day, the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

**Deacon** We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy day, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. God, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

*I invite you now to offer your own intercessions or thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

***Celebrant: Closing Collect at the prayers***

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. ***Amen.***