

Prayers of the People

Deacon: My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's Word made flesh this night.

Deacon: From grateful hearts, let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: O God, Let your light shine.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

That the child born to us might find in our hearts a warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

That the rejoicing of this night might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

The prayers of the congregation may be added silently or aloud.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, into the dark corners of the world, ***O God, Let your light shine.***

Celebrant: God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word made flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, this night and forever. ***Amen.***