

A Nativity Among the Rubble

A Prayer at Christmas



Photo: Munther Isaac

Opening Hymn

Where possible invite all gathered to sing/play Away in a Manger.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head

The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

Prayer on Lighting a Candle

To begin, invite the youngest member of the household to light a candle, while someone prays the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
fill our hearts with your divine love.
Shed your light on our world,
as we pray for peace.
May your blessing come upon us,
warming our hearts and brightening our way.
Jesus, our saviour,
we light this candle to the glory Your holy name.
Amen.

Invite each member of the family to lead the following prayers.

A Thankful Christmas Prayer for our Family

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our family. We thank you for our health and our homes. We thank You for answering our prayers, and for knowing what we need even before we ask. Most of all we thank you for surrounding us with the gifts of family and friends – for laughter, trust and love. Bless those who sacrifice so much so we can celebrate. Bless those who can't be with us yet remain close to our hearts. Continue to bless and protect us all. **Amen.**

A Thankful Christmas Prayer for our Christmas Gifts

Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So too, may we remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we receive and open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. **Amen.**

A Thankful Christmas Prayer for our Christmas Dinner

Dear God, we give thanks for this time when we can all be together. We give thanks for our food, and we ask your blessing upon it, our friends and family. We also pray that in your great mercy, you would look kindly upon all those in need or hungry this day. We give thanks for this joyful Christmas when we can celebrate the birth of our Saviour and his love for us. With joy we pray, Amen.

A Thankful Prayer for our Christmas Tree

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace

God, our Creator, we pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, peace for the troubled, and protection for our children. Fill our world with the gift of your peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

Final Prayer

Almighty God and Father of Light,
a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.

Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now the world is filled with wonder at the nearness of our God.
Open our hearts to receive Your life and love,
and may our lives be filled with your glory and peace,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The youngest member of the family extinguishes the candle.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.