**Christmas Eve**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:**

On this holy night we rejoice at the birth of Christ, Word-made-flesh and light of the world. With glad hearts, let us place all our needs in God’s loving care.

1. For the Holy Church of God throughout the world, that as she celebrates the birth of Christ, she may grow in holiness. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For world leaders: that Christ, the Prince of Peace, may turn their minds and hearts to thoughts of peace. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For the sick, the lonely, and for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one: that Christ who shared our humanity may renew their strength and rekindle their hope. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those who are away from home this Christmas: that they may know that they are not forgotten. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For all who have to work over Christmas: emergency, medical and care services, those employed in hospitality and transport services; reward their dedicated service and commitment. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For ourselves, our families and all our loved ones: that our hearts may be filled with joy as we contemplate the Baby Jesus, born as a Saviour to us in Bethlehem. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For all those who have died, that by the power of Christ's birth on earth, they may be born into heaven. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:**

God of love and mercy, may the coming of your Son scatter the darkness of this world, and make it radiant with His Light. May we follow Him faithfully, and come to the light that shines forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**