

## Bidding Prayers – Christmas 2020

**Priest:** How lovely on the mountains is the One who brings good news. On this holy festival we are filled with joy at the coming of the Saviour, eternal Word and infant newly born. Filled with wonder and devotion we present our prayers for the blessing of our world

**1.** For those who mark the birth of Christ all over the world today, that the celebration will bring a new light to their lives

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**2.** For all whose lives are darkened by war and violence, especially the people of Syria, Palestine and Israel, that the peace and goodwill proclaimed by the angels, may take root in their midst.

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**3.** For the hungry, the sick and the homeless, and all whose loneliness seems more sharp at Christmas time, that the light of Christ may brighten their lives.

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**4.** For our community and families, that Christ may find the same warm welcome from us as he received from Mary and Joseph and the shepherds the first Christmas.

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**5.** For our friends who have been taken from us in death, particularly those who have died since last Christmas, whom we remember, that the peace and joy of heaven may be theirs.

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**6.** For our own needs, and for our friends to whom we have sent Christmas cards and gifts, that God may indeed bless them.

**(Pause)** Lord in your mercy...

**Priest:** Loving Father, Christmas is a time of true delight, as glory lights the heavens and hope shines forth on earth. We truly rejoice in this saving work and beseech you to make our joy complete by granting the prayers we make through the Bethlehem child, the saviour who is Christ our Lord.