

Christmas Eve Prayers 2018
Incarnate God
Hear our prayer

Radiant God, we give thanks and praise to you on this remarkable night. We come to you in awe as you come to us not as the powerful almighty, but as an infant: vulnerable and miraculous. We're drawn to your innocence, the way you look at the world with wondering eyes, as if you're seeing it new for the first time. Just to know you and be with you is a gift and yet you come for so much more, you come to transform our hearts and the world, because you love us. We've spent this season preparing for you, so come and make a home in us.

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

We pray for a world in need of the grace and mercy you bring with you. We pray for families who gather this season to enjoy the blessing and challenge of family. We hold close all who are grieving loved ones, all who sit vigil in hospital rooms praying for good news; all who just got test results and have heard the worst; all who are facing funeral arrangements. Let your light

shine through, the light the darkness cannot overcome.

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

Make your love known to all who have seen the end of something they loved; a dream that dissolved despite everything they gave up to make it real; for all who grieve the things that they *wish* to be true right now and *should* be true—but are not.

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

We remember those this night with no family, who have no Christmas dinner, who have no way of escaping the cold. Bring your ease and comfort to places and people that cannot find rest. We pray for children to know warmth, loving care, and the magic of this night; for those sick and shut in that they may feel hope and connection; we pray for the grieving and frightened that you may offer peace and protection.

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

We pray for your world . . . for the wisdom of world leaders, for your justice to work in all corners of the world. As your earth cries out in the only way it

knows how, give humans the means to transform our way of life into one more compatible with the sustained health of the planet. God wake us up to the places we can serve and make a difference; give us the vision and means to say yes to your call.

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

We have joys and challenges on our hearts this night – we share them now silently or aloud . . .

Incarnate God, Hear our prayer

Christ child, come into our hearts we pray and heal us from the inside out. Your love is more powerful than hate; more enduring than our suffering; more vast than our grief. Before the world even came into being was you and your love; still we remain in your love, for your love is everywhere. We wonder at the mystery of this night as we pray together as Jesus taught us . . .

saying . . . Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom and the power and glory are yours now and forever. Amen.