



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

# Prayers for the Christmas Season

## A Christmas Prayer

### **This Christmas, Lord**

take a corner of my life and steal in...  
invade the busyness of my doing with the quiet of your coming.

### **This Christmas, Lord**

take a corner of my mind and steal in...  
illuminate the darkness of my thinking with the brightness of your seeing.

### **This Christmas, Lord,**

take a corner of my heart and steal in...  
infuse the coldness of my loving with the warmth of your being.

### **This Christmas, Lord**

as at Bethlehem's stable, come and steal in...  
take the unprepared places of my life  
and make them fit for your dwelling.  
Amen



## Christmas Prayer

In our journeying we find you,  
God of the unexpected places.  
We find you there – in our doubts  
as well as our certainties,  
in our fears as well as our courage,  
in our questions as well as our wonder,  
and in our turning to others to care.  
Help us to journey on,  
Looking expectantly to find you.



Lynda Wright

## The Work of Christmas

The work of Christmas begins  
When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal those broken in spirit,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to make a little music with the heart...  
And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins.

## Graces for meals times during Christmas & Advent

Lord, as we travel towards Christmas,  
we thank you for food on our tables in a hungry world  
and for friendship in a lonely world.  
May everyone who sits around this table  
hear the good news of great joy  
this Christmas and every day. Amen

Father, We thank Thee for this day.  
Bless all we do and all we say.  
May we each enjoy Thy blessings great  
As Jesus' Birth we celebrate.  
And may the love that we share here  
Remain throughout the coming year.  
Amen.

Gertrude B. Byram



## Christmas Tree Blessing



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.

### **Prayer for our Homes**

Lord Jesus Christ, come and dwell in our hearts this Christmas, so that our home may have you in it and be full of joy and peace.

May no ill-temper, impatience, envy, jealousy spoil the gladness of your birthday, but may love shine in our midst, bringing light to all our hearts and minds.

Amen



J. McDougall Ferguson

### **Prayer for all those who suffer**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

### **Prayer for after Christmas Day**

After the Christmas joy and celebration, may you know God's comfort, if you sorrow, and His presence if you feel alone.

God not only became human for us, He also endured the sharpest edges of our lives, offering transformation of tears and heartbreak, for all who receive it. Amen.

Malcolm Duncan