



Tidings of Great Joy: Christmas Prayers

To bless your home or classroom

From the Team at
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A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love
all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil
by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy
to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

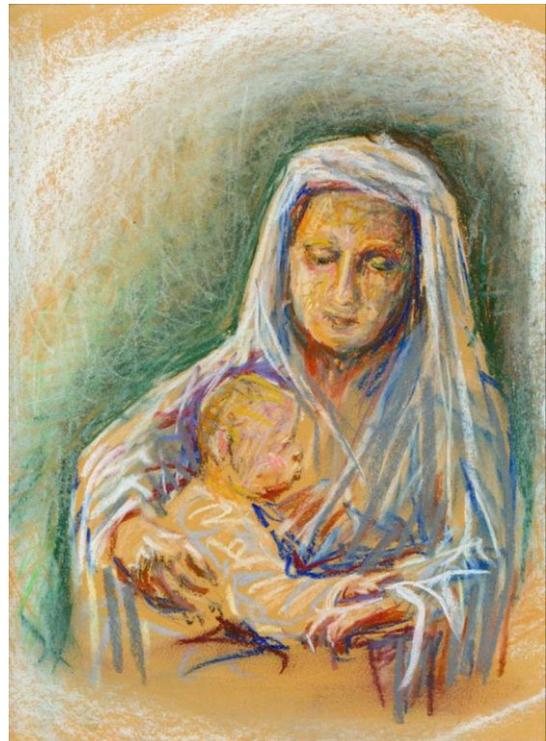
I believe in the one whom the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.





Christmas Prayers for Present Opening Time

1. Lord Jesus, when the wise men and women who visited your childhood home arrived and met you, the first act they undertook was to open their treasuries and give you gifts. Likewise, when Joseph of Arimathea (who met you later) realized you were in need of a tomb, he opened his own treasury to provide one.

In between the cradle and the cross, you taught us to give generously, to empty ourselves, to take the last place if we wished to be near you. You became the servant of all, never the one who lorded it over them. You loved first, and asked questions later.

So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us. Amen.

2. Let me take just a moment, Lord, to hold this time in my heart.
It is about mysteries and gratitude,
surprises and wrong sizes,
snippets of ribbon and screams of delight.

Help me to remember the immense love you have for each of us
and especially for those who struggle
to provide for their daily needs,
much less the “extras”
such as we have here.

With each gift that is opened,
no matter how perfect or not,
let me feel again the many ways
you gift us each day,
especially with your presence in our hearts
and the presence of each other in our
lives. Amen.



Christmas Prayers for those who work on Christmas Day



1. Lord, we pause to remember those who must work today.
As we spend our day in celebration,
make us mindful of these others who are serving us.
Help us to support them and remember them,
and turn our hearts toward them with gratitude.
I ask you, Loving Father,
to extend a special sense of your presence
to the people they will meet today in their line of work.
May they shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star,
and the Spirit of Christmas. Amen.

2. Loving God, on this sacred day, I am going to work.
There is something special about working on Christmas,
when so many others are home with loved ones.
My work today can have a wondrous sense of service and necessity.

But it doesn't always feel noble and inside me there is a struggle:
I wish I could stay home.
Help me to feel sent by you today.
Let me recognize the unique way
my co-workers and I are called
to serve our brothers and sisters.
Let me take just a moment in this quiet
to feel your deep love for me.
May I carry that sense of peace with me as the light of your love,
shining on everyone I come in contact with today. Amen.

Prayer before Christmas Dinner



God of all gifts,
we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day.
We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table.
We ask you to bless us and our food
and to bless those we love who are not with us today.
In our gratitude and love,
we remember your humble birth into our lives
and pray for those who are without enough to eat.

We remember the stable in which you were born
and pray for those who have no place to live.

We remember your challenging message
of caring and giving
and we pray for peace in families and nations
throughout the world.

We bless you and give you thanks
in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day
and forever. Amen.