



Christmas Prayer Service

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to contemplate the scene of Christ's birth in a poor manger. When we look upon the figures of a manger scene, the Christmas gospel comes alive for us and we rejoice in this wonderful event that God so loved us that he sent His Son to be born for all of us!

++Each person chooses a card with their place at the Court of the Infant King. While doing so music can be played in the background.

++Use a table top Nativity scene. Choose children to carry up each individual figure to add to the Nativity scene as the prayer is read for that particular figure.

++As the figure is carried up to the Nativity scene, the children who chose that "Court" stand and pray the prayer together, led by the reader. Reader must pause in between each prayer to give time for the figure to be placed in the nativity scene.

Placement of Nativity Figures

Reader: Please stand at your place as the Court of the King is read.

- May I, like the stable, be a shelter for those who need help.
- May I, like the crib, offer my heart as a place for Jesus to live.
- May I, like the star, be the Light of Christ always leading others to Jesus.
- May I, like the angels, sing God's praises and bring the good news to others.



- May I, like the Wise Men, give the gift of myself to others.
- May I, like the shepherds, listen to Jesus speaking to my mind and heart.
- May I, like St. Joseph, trust in God and care for others.
- May I, like Mary, see Jesus in the heart of all those I meet.
- Father, we now place the Baby Jesus in our Nativity scene. Please help us all to remember that Christmas is a celebration of His birthday, that He came into the world to save us, and that no present we receive could ever compare to this gift of your Son to us. Thank you, for Jesus is born!

Sing: Children Run Joyfully (Bob Dufford) or Away in a Manger or any Christmas Carol



Reading of the Good News of Jesus' Birth from St. Luke's Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: We ask God to hear us and watch over us as He did for the whole world on that first Christmas night.

- We pray for the safety and well-being of all children throughout the world...Lord, hear our prayer.

- We pray for all parents, that Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph will help them and guide them...Lord, hear our prayer.
- We pray for all families everywhere, that they will live in love and care for each other, in imitation of the Holy Family...Lord, hear our prayer.
- We pray for poor and hurting people, that they will never be forgotten, and our care will ease their pain...Lord, hear our prayer.
- We pray for all newborn babies, and babies waiting to be born, that their new lives may bring great joy to all...Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us now together pray the prayer Our Lord Jesus taught us.
Our Father...



Blessing of Manger Scene (holy water may be used)

Lord Jesus, we are so happy to celebrate your birthday. As we recall that blessed event, look down upon us and fill us with your grace. Bless our manger and all who pray at the manger scene. May it help us to remember the true celebration of Christmas, your humble birth long ago. Thank you for being born for us!

Song: Children, Run Joyfully or Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus (found on "Sunshine and Snowflakes") or any Christmas Carol