

Dec. 24 & 25 Intercessions CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

Jesus Christ, the world's Saviour, is here with us, born as a human baby.

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, let us pray to the living God.

The congregational response, as printed in to-day's bulletin:

Holy God: **be born in us today.**

Lord God, thank you for our Church and its people, for our deacons, priests and bishops, and all who pray. Bless us all and strengthen us for your service so we can touch the world with your love. (pause) Holy God: **be born in us today.**

Lord God, we thank you for our world and all its beauty and blessing. Teach us your ways, your love and your truth, and let your kingdom grow and flourish. (pause) Holy God: **be born in us today.**

Lord God, we thank you for our families, our neighbours and our friends, for the happiness of human loving and sharing. We pray for your blessing on all those we love, whether present with us today or far away. (pause) Holy God: **be born in us today.**

Lord God, we thank you for health and strength, and pray now for your help and healing wherever people ache with pain and sorrow, loneliness or fear. Bless them in their need and surround them with love.

Silence

Holy God:
be born in us today.

Lord God, we thank you for lives well lived,
and all who have guided us to you.
We pray for those who have died
and all for whom Christmas
sharpens the loss of loved ones.

Silence

Holy God:

be born in us today.

Lord God, we thank you for Christmas joy
and all the opportunities
to show our love for one another.
May our love, rooted in yours,
continue throughout the year.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**