
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Jesus, the expression of God's love, lives as a vulnerable
boy in the real and dangerous world we all inhabit.*

Let us pray to the God who travels with us
in all our celebrations and tragedies,
and understands what it is like to be human.

As we celebrate Christmas,
when the Word of God became flesh,
we pray for the Church, the Body of Christ.
May we be so filled with God's loving life
that our actions touch the world with hope
which lasts even when Christmas decorations
are put away.

Silence

Thank you, Lord God:
for coming to save us.

As the world is reminded of love and peace
in the words of the carols,
may the reality of a God who loves us so much
transform our social and political thinking,
and energise our plans and negotiations.

Silence

Thank you, Lord God:
for coming to save us.

As Christmas brings together family members and friends,
and we make contact with those we seldom meet,

may all our relationships be nourished
with love and forgiveness,
and may we value one another more.

Silence

Thank you, Lord God:
for coming to save us.

We remember all who are forced to escape
from their homes, and live without security;
we think particularly of those with young children
who are homeless or in danger.

Silence

Thank you, Lord God:
for coming to save us.

We pray for those whose earthly journey
has come to an end,
and those who have tended them during their dying;
we pray for those who have died through violence,
and for those who have much to forgive.

Silence

Thank you, Lord God:
for coming to save us.

Lord, we recognise our great need of your grace,
and give you thanks and praise
for making possible what would otherwise
be impossible.

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