**Christmas Eve**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** With Christ’s light shining on the world this night, let us unite in prayer for our needs and the needs of the world.

1. For Christians throughout the world: may they always be a light to the world, strengthened by the power of ‘God-with-us’. **Lord, hear us.**
2. Prince of Peace, on this holy night, we pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in the world. May your birth offer a beacon of hope to nations at war, that they may deepen their efforts for harmony and peace. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For those who are away from home this Christmas: may they know the closeness of family, the blessing of friends and the lasting joy that is found in Christ. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those who have to work this Christmas: for the emergency services, those who work in our nursing homes, hospitals and public utilities, those in our prisons and our Gardaí, foster parents, farmers and those in the media. May their sacrifice and commitment be rewarded. **Lord, hear us.**
5. We pray for our peace-keeping troops on mission overseas this Christmas. Bless and protect them, safeguard them against all harm and grace their mission with success. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For our families at Christmas: May we live the grace of Christmas every day. May we always give generously, receive gifts gratefully, welcome others, and strive to live a life of grace. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For those who have died and for those who mourn their loved ones at Christmas. May the light of hope bring healing, solace and hope. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, as you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart, through Christ, the Light of the World, our Lord. **Amen.**