

TOGETHER WE PRAY CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

Bidding: Glory to you, O God

Response: **On earth, peace**

Help us, Loving God of promise, to feel the wonder of this night, for His name is "Wonderful"; to listen to his teaching, live his wisdom, for he is "Counsellor".

Like the shepherds, guide us to kneel at his crib, be touched with awe as the name "Mighty God" sings in our souls.

Remind us, day by day, to trust, to put our faith in the One who is steadfast Love always, as "Everlasting Father".

Give us courage to be peace-makers as we follow the "Prince of Peace."

Grant us the deep longing to see right prevail, the passion to see justice in our world.

Glory to you, O God

On earth, peace.

God, Emmanuel, God-with-us, we remember those we know in the darkness of grief and ill-health. We pray that the burden of sadness be lifted by your comforting companionship, that pain and discomfort be lessened in your healing presence.

A feeding trough was the distinctive sign for the shepherds. Help us to be alert for the signs of your grace and love in the ordinary.

Glory to you, O God

On earth, peace.

God of angel song and starlight, we thank you for the joy of carols as we sing your praise this night. God of the crowded inn, help us to find ways to make our churches places of welcome, with love in our greetings and room at your table.

Glory to you, O God

On earth, peace

We thank you that Christmas each year is an opportunity for retelling the story, for giving and receiving, for worship and song and for renewal and re-dedication. (*Seasons and Celebrations*)