

TOGETHER WE PRAY CHRISTMAS DAY 2017

Loving God, as we hear again the wonderful story of Christmas, sung by choirs, read by adults, acted by children, help us to realise there are lessons to learn and invitations to challenge us.

Born in a shelter for animals, cradled in a feeding trough, the Child teaches us to live simply, to avoid the trappings of materialism.

Joseph was faithful, loyal and open to your directing.

Mary said "Yes", not knowing where it would lead, yet trusting your path.

Together they made a safe and loving family home. Encourage us, we pray, by their example. We ask your blessing on all families gathered here.

(Time for reflection)

As we welcome Christ into the humble stable of our lives, we know the joy of being your children. Help us rise to the challenge of being brothers and sisters to one another and of growing into the likeness of your Son, full of grace and truth.

(Time for reflection)

Shine, God. Even the darkness is not dark to you.

Shine in our darkness, light of our lives.

When we walk in the grey gloom of confusion;

when pain drains all the colour out of life;

when we are paralysed by the darkness of fear, shine in our darkness.

When we know that others are walking in the darkness,
give us courage to be a light for them.

(The Pattern of our Days, ed. Kathy Galloway)