

TOGETHER WE PRAY – DEC 31 2017

Bidding: For your love and mercy, new every morning

Response: **We give you thanks**

God of majestic sun that marks our days; God of the gentle moon that marks our months; God of the seasons that mark our year, you are with us always, Emmanuel. We thank you for your steadfast love in the year that is nearly past as we gently hold the memories, the joys and sorrows, the success and disappointments, the hurt and the healing.

For your love and mercy, new every morning

We give you thanks

Faithful God, we look towards the months of a New Year, grateful for your promise to be with us always and everywhere. We thank you for the people we meet in the gospel story today – for Mary and Joseph and their devotion to your law; for Simeon and his patience and inspired intuition; for Anna and her life of prayer. We pray that your Holy Spirit may rest on us, may reveal your truth, may guide us as we step into the new year.

For your love and mercy, new every morning

We give you thanks

“Be for us, a companion on our journey, the guide on our intersections, the strengthening during fatigue, the fortress in danger, the resource on our itinerary, the shadow in our heat, the light in our darkness, the consolation during dejection and the power of our intention so that we, under your guidance, safely and unhurt, may reach the end of our journey..... strengthened with gratitude and power, secure and filled with happiness.” (*Prayer for the Pilgrimage on Santiago de Compostela*)