

Christmas Devotions at Home



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Rhode Island

Greeting / Introduction / Acclamation

Leader: Christ has brought us out of darkness:

Response: To live in his marvelous light.

Leader: We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;

Response: Jesus is our King.

As a candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
Jesus is our Way.

With Jesus even dark places are light;
Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever:
Jesus is our Life.

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

I bring you good news of great joy:

a Savior has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

Hear the words of St Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.
We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show us how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. **Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Kyrie Confession

You were born for our salvation: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came as Savior to bring wholeness and peace: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of Penitence

A prayer for use with small children

Dear God, we are sorry for the things we do and say and think which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves. Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people more and more. **Amen.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Savior forgive *us our* sins and make *us* holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ our Lord: for he was the Word before all creation.

Through him all things come to be; not one thing has its being but through him.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

His life is the light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness cannot overpower.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was the true light coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

He came to his own, and they did not accept him. But to all who accept him he gives power to become children of God.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

To God our creator, born as one of us, be all praise and glory.
With all the company of heaven, we worship, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come;
to him be glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.**

Intercession

Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for families.
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for the homeless and refugees.
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for all of creation.
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for all nations,
races, peoples.
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for our own needs and those of others.
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Blessing and Ending

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

You have heard his story, the story of God's own Son.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

May he fill you with joy to bring this good news to others today.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.