

STORAL PRAYER: December 25, 1966

WE ARE MINDFUL, O GOD, of the glorious message of this  
Christmas Day ~~Day~~ EVE —

Of how thou didst break into our world long ago,  
to live in it, to die in it, in order to bring  
it back to thyself.

AS WE THIS HOUR center our thoughts upon the coming of the  
Christ Child, we pray that something of His spirit may be born  
anew in our hearts -

By the way of Bethlehem, lead us Lord to newness  
of life.

By the innocence of the Christ Child, renew our  
simple trust.

By the tenderness of Mary, deliver us from hardness  
of heart, from cruelty and violence.

By the patience of Joseph, save us from rash judgment,  
and thus enable us to persevere through  
the more difficult moments of life.

By the wise men's coming, keep our searching spirits  
from fainting.

By the shining of a star, guide our feet in the  
path of peace and the way of human  
brotherhood.

WE KNOW OUR FATHER that this glad season of Christmas brings less  
joy to some than it does to others.

At this time our prayers reach out in love and  
concern for those we hold dear, for those our friends  
who are sick, who are shut-in by life's experiences,  
who in this hour are weighed down with discouragement.

Be near to them and fill their lives with the Christmas  
lights of hope, meaning, joy and strength.

Bring to each of us in these moments that assurance  
that even now Thou art drawing close to us even as  
thou didst long ago draw close to the shepherds in  
the field, and to the Wise Men who came out of the  
East and knelt before the manger in Bethlehem.

All this we ask in the spirit of the Christ Child.