Christmas Year A December 25th

***Optional***

***Response for***

***Prayer of Faithful***



**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Welcome to everyone who is here tonight/today; you may be a visitor from afar, you might live one block away, you might be in your senior years, a teenager with the prospect of summer ahead or a babe in arms. Whoever you are, WELCOME! ‘Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy. This day a saviour has been born to you; it is Christ the Lord’ – two thousand years ago, this message of great joy was given to shepherds. Tonight/today, it is given to us. Let us open our minds and hearts to receive these ‘glad tidings of great joy.’ To prepare to encounter Jesus who comes to meet us in this Christmas liturgy, let us come to stillness and be silent for a few moments. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome to ……………………… (*parish name*). Let us stand and sing with joy.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that all the baptized will stand before the Christmas crib with a deepened sense humility, a renewed appreciation of all that is good and a stronger desire to share the Gospel of love.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For nations who are not at peace with their neighbours –** that the search for peace will not end, and that leaders of countries earnestly will pursue paths that will lead to peace.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For shepherds and all who care for animals –** that a sense of care pervade the way people treat animals and that the human family regard all animals as part of the family of God’s creation.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For families and those who care for babies and little children –** that babies and little children everywhere have their physical need for food and warmth, their emotional need for love, and their intellectual need to learn, fully met.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For people who cannot sleep in peace for fear of violence** – that they be freed from the relentless oppression of violence and that those who bring torment, hear and respond to the call to live justly and peaceably.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For our local community –** that those who are in great need will be supported in love and compassion.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**Concluding Prayer**

Almighty God, draw us into the mystery of your love. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we waited. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, one among us, who lives and reigns in unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever ... …**Amen**