

**Prayer Service for Presentation Sisters and Associates  
Christmas Eve or Day, 2013**

**Welcome:** The Word is God and brings new life! Beautiful mountains are lit with the Good News of salvation, God-with-us! The Gospel of John says, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God. He came to bear witness to the true light; this light will enlighten everyone."

**Reader:** Each one of us needs to experience Bethlehem, to be born into new life in our world. Coming out from our selfishness, pride, unawareness and gossiping, we need Jesus to reconcile us with God and with one another. The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us. It is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

**Reflection/Faith Sharing**

- 1. How have I experienced Bethlehem, being born into new life?**
- 2. In my personal life or community or my ministry, how do I recognize God's grace or saving presence?**
- 3. What word or phrase symbolizes this Christmas Season's eternal joy?**

**Reader:** May the love that breathes life into all of humanity  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May the love that brings forth all of creation,  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May the love that overcomes hatred and brings healing,  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May the love that forgives and renews,  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May the love that brings the fruits of justice,  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May the love that brings the blessing of peace,  
Be born in us this Christmas season.  
May Peace now be the gift we with share with all our brothers and sisters.  
From "A Gift of Peace," by Richard Becher, in *Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*, 2004

**Reader:** Let us pray:  
Loving God, be with us on our journey. As we work together for a better world may we give witness to Christ's values in our midst. We pray for this gift at this special time of year and we make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.