

Set I: Isaiah 62.6-12, Ps 97, Titus 3.4-8a, Luke 2.1-20

First born of Mary, in your goodness and loving-kindness: Receive our prayer

We rejoice with the earth, with the stars that spin through the night, with the sun's rays that dance through the day, and with every shining leaf and watchful creature.

May we treasure this day and ponder it with wonder in our hearts.

First born of Mary, in your goodness and loving-kindness: Receive our prayer

We rejoice that your light shines in the darkness about us. We pray for the many around the globe who are suffering this day. For those caught in ongoing crises caused by poverty, conflict, disaster, persecution, and displacement. We remember all who have suffered through immense fires this year and pray for emergency workers in the coming season.

We pray for the many who are struggling to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, the isolated, those who grieve, and exhausted and traumatised medical staff around the world.

We give thanks for those who have governed wisely, worked to find treatments, and have responsibly protected others.

First born of Mary, in your goodness and loving-kindness: Receive our prayer

We rejoice with your church the world over – in cathedrals, in churches of stone, earth, wood or tin – in hospital wards, tents, and places of work and service – with all who gather - whether under roof or sky.

We give thanks for those who have kept us company through Advent and on every step of the path that now leads us to the place of your birth.

First born of Mary, in your goodness and loving-kindness: Receive our prayer

While many cannot rejoice this year with their family and friends, we send out our prayers for those far away, for the lonely, and for those organising and attending community dinners. Hear our prayers for all who are unwell, anxious, or estranged from one another ...

We look to the dawning of your peace in every life and give thanks that our departed loved ones reside in your eternal light.

May we treasure this day and ponder it with wonder in our hearts.

First born of Mary, in your goodness and loving-kindness: Receive our prayer