

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER
(Community/Hope/Compassion)

Opening Prayer

Jesus, you are our Promised One, our Savior. It is you that fills the needs of our lives and the desires of our hearts. We ask that you deepen our awareness of your presence in our lives and in our hearts, especially at this time of remembering your holy birth. Help us to recognize you in the poor and needy people of our day. We thank you for being the Savior of us all. Amen.

Scripture Reading: I John 4:9-12

God's love for us was revealed when God sent the only Son into the world so that we could have life through him.

This is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when the Son was sent to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God, but as long as we love one another, God will live in us and God's love will be complete in us.

Reflection

*His name was Joseph. Her name was Mary.
Poor and cold, alone and unknown,
they trudged through the streets of Bethlehem,
looking for a warm place to bed themselves and their unborn son.
Finding an inn, they knocked on the door and asked -
"Sir, we are tired and alone. May we bed here tonight?"
"This is not possible," the innkeeper replied,
and quietly closed the door to keep out the bitter cold ...
In that cold dark night in Bethlehem, God made it perfectly clear
that the Baby Jesus had come not for the rich and powerful,
but for the poor, the lonely and the tired.*

Sister Mary Rose, Covenant House, 1992