

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER (cont.)

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 25: 35-40*

"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger, and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me ... Whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me."

Prayer Of Intercession

Leader: *Holy God, as you have touched us, may we now touch others with your love. The oppressed and the persecuted are crying out for the liberating touch of justice.*

All: *Touch them with your justice in us.*

Leader: *The poor and the outcast are crying out for the life-giving touch of compassion.*

All: *Touch them with your compassion in us.*

Leader: *The battered victims of war and violence are crying out for the healing touch of peace.*

All: *Touch them with your peace in us.*

Leader: *The lost and the lonely are crying out for the welcoming touch of friendship.*

All: *Touch them with your friendship in us.*

Leader: *The prisoners of their own fear and cruelty are crying out for the generous touch of mercy.*

All: *Touch them with your mercy in us.*

Leader: *And those we love are crying out for the continuing touch of love.*

All: *Touch them with your love in us.*

Leader: *May our lives be the place where you touch us, and we touch others in your name, for you are the source of our life and love.*

Leader: *Loving God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior, our hope and light. Continue to grace us with the presence of Jesus. Amen!*