

# Christmas/ Epiphany Prayer Service

## Materials

- A picture of, or something that looks like:
  - a manger
  - a star
  - gold
  - frankincense (may use any incense)
  - myrrh (may use a jar or picture of any spice and label it as myrrh)
  - Bible and chalice
- Sign that says Emmanuel
- Picture or statue of St. Stephen
- Picture or statue of an infant
- Picture or statue of the Holy Family
- A pitcher of water

## Preparation

- Prepare several people to announce symbols and place them on the table in the front of the room. Instruct them to hold their symbol high in the air as they announce it to the people. Then they will place the symbol on the table.

### Leader

*Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The glory of God shines upon us as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas gift of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world. Let us pray that our hearts will be ignited by that light so that we may become signs of Christ's love in the world.*

### Song

Choose a song that you will sing at liturgy during the Christmas season.

### Leader

*As each symbol is placed on the table, we invite you to respond, "May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions."*

### Reader One

*Christmas is the manger, the feeding trough that reminds us that Jesus Christ is spiritual food for the world. Place the manger symbol on the table.*

### All

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

### Reader Two

*Christmas is the star, the guiding light that reminds us that the coming of Jesus transforms the entire universe. Place the star symbol on the table.*

### All

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

### Reader Three

*Christmas is gold, the gift that calls us to a kingly ministry of generosity. Place the gold symbol on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Four**

*Christmas is frankincense, the gift that calls us to a priestly ministry of loving self sacrifice for others. Place the frankincense symbol on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Five**

*Christmas is myrrh, the gift that calls us to the prophetic ministry of consolation and challenge. Place the myrrh symbol on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Six**

*Christmas is the Word of God made flesh, who inspires us to allow the presence of Christ to be enfleshed in our daily lives. Place the Bible and chalice on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Seven**

*Christmas is Emmanuel, a name that means God with us – a name that reminds us that we are never alone. Place the Emmanuel sign on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Eight**

*Christmas is the martyrdom of St. Stephen, a martyrdom that points Christmas squarely in the direction of the paschal mystery – the death and resurrection of Jesus. Place the St. Stephen picture or statue on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Nine**

*Christmas is the martyrdom of the Holy Innocents, a martyrdom that reminds us that innocent people die unjustly at the hands of powerful people every day. Place the picture or statue of the infant on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Ten**

*Christmas is the Holy Family. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph inspire all of our families to discover and share our distinct gifts with the world. Place the Holy Family picture or statue on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Reader Eleven**

*Christmas is the Baptism of the Lord, the closing of the Christmas season which launches the adult, public ministry of Jesus. Place the pitcher of water on the table.*

**All**

*May Christmas inspire love in our words and actions.*

**Leader**

*May we immerse ourselves in all of these expressions of Christmas this year, so that we will become a community more inspired by the gift of Christ in our lives, and may our inspiration be a light for all people to follow toward the ways of peace. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**All**

*Amen.*