

Tonight we commemorate Your birth, Jesus.



A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:

Thank You, Jesus, for this time to celebrate Your birth. Every day is like Christmas for us because You're so good to us every day, but this time is extra special because You pour out Your love in extra measure. We feel Your love from loved ones, acquaintances, and even strangers. There's just something about Your birthday that turns people's hearts and minds to peace and love and goodwill. It brings out the best in everyone because it brings *You* out, and You're the best!

We thank You most of all for the greatest gift ever—Yourself. Thank You for coming to earth and living like one of us so we could understand Your Father's love, and then for dying for us so we could experience His mercy and forgiveness. Thank You for all that went into giving us salvation and eternal life. You did all that for our sakes! Help us to return Your love by helping to keep the spirit of Christmas alive throughout the coming year as we share You and Your love with those You bring our way. Amen.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.¹

¹ Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”