



*She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.*

No stunning brilliance
nor infinite power.
Blinding glory
hidden.
But a
star shines
over the shelter
and we bend our knee
to God in the homeless baby
who needs to be held, loved and fed.

The Word was made flesh and dwells
among us.

We are no longer just dwellings, but tem-
ples, homes for God,
filled with endless grace and brilliance
within.

All is holy now. Thank you,
Jesus.



A prayer to the Infant Jesus

O Jesus, Prince of Peace and Sovereign of the Universe, you chose to humble yourself and come into the world, not as a powerful ruler, but as a helpless infant. Grant us the grace of humility and gentleness before you and our brothers and sisters. Grant too, O Lord, that we may always strive to achieve the virtue and innocence of your own childhood. Instil in us a growing faith in you, O Lord, and the strength to resist temptation in a world that so widely rejects you. Look upon us with compassion and forgive us our sins. Fill our hearts with kindness and understanding, especially for children, the aged and those we dislike or who dislike us.

O Jesus, who so loved children that you admonished us, "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven", grant us childlike faith and purity of heart. Protect us by your Almighty power from the powers of evil, anxieties, worries, fear, sickness, accidents and unprepared death. Give us the grace not only to pray fervently, but to help spread your Gospel by deed as well as word. Amen.

Emmanuel - The wonder Counsellor, The Mighty God and The Prince of Peace – God with us

He comes to us today. He comes to all His children who are wounded, broken and separated from family and friends. He comes to all who hate Him and love Him, all who destroyed His holy places and all who build up His Church, and to all who killed His people across the world and to all who save His people from suffering and rejection. **He come to you and me.** For He is love, mercy and compassion. Jesus is the beacon of hope and light in our world of darkness fragmented by war, violence, secularism, religious fundamentalism, selfishness and greed. He comes to teach us humility, generosity, love and care. He comes to heal and to restore the lost unity, peace and mutual co-existence. Let us love Him, embrace Him and worship Him and let us convey His light of hope, joy and peace in our families, community, workplace and thus into the whole world. He still loves the world, He still loves you and me.

May I thank you all for your love, friendship and support. I wish and pray you, your family and friends remain blessed and healthy at this joyful time and in the New Year. I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

With much love and prayers. *Father Cyril*