



24 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS NOVENA

INTRODUCTION: Dear friends, on this last day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas, we turn our gaze of faith towards Bethlehem with the entire Church. May the song of angels enchant our hearts again and draw us to Christ Child, our Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2: 1-8** (*Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

REFLECTION: If there is something in this story about God with us which rings true; which tugs at your spirit. God with us. Not God over us. Not God judging us. Not God condemning us. God with us in this wonderful, complex, sorrowful, joyful thing we call life. God with you and me. God with us and them. God here. God now. Just as you are. Just as we are. Just as they are. So, if there is something about this story...Something about Christmas which is about more than trees and gifts and carols and cards, then let me ask...What are you doing to get ready for that kind of Christmas?

INTERCESSION:

Response: **Come Lord Jesus; come as the desire of our hearts!**

Let us love the church which continues to proclaim to all ages the reality of your coming. **R/-**

May all of us who are called to be Christians, be known by our love and service to each other.
R/-

May your coming into our lives bring us new vigour and vitality to our faith and our ministry towards the needy of our world. **R/-**

Prince of peace, may your birth bring harmony and lasting peace to all the troubled and conflicting Nations. **R/-**

Lord, your birth brings eternal life within our reach; may our departed loved ones enjoy eternal peace in you. **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Come Jesus our Saviour, come and dwell among us, clothed in a robe of flesh, give us love, wisdom and understanding at your birth. Reveal to us the mystery of your life, and then send us forth to reveal your Word to the furthest ends of the earth. You, who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

CONCLUDING HYMN: 288-Joyful Celebration (Optional)

