



# Christmas Collects and Benediction

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**T**hese collects are designed as a response to some of the lessons read at a Service of Lessons and Carols. The Benediction is designed to conclude a Candlelight Service.

### 1. Scripture Reading: Proverbs 8: 1; 22-24; 27-31

#### *Wisdom Plays and the World is Made*

##### **Prayer**

O God, our Creator  
In your Wisdom we see the reflection  
of your only begotten Child,  
Jesus, the Christ.  
As Wisdom played at your side  
to make the world,  
teach us joyfully to engage the world  
with your beloved Child,  
together to make all things new.

### 2. Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

#### *God's Faithfulness Redeems Us*

##### **Prayer**

O God our Redeemer,  
when we have strayed from your paths  
You light our way home,  
and send us your Holy One to guide the way.  
Let us follow in the way of your Light,  
walking faithfully with You  
in the paths of justice and peace  
which lead to abundant life.

### 3. Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18-23

#### *Joseph Dreams of God-With-Us*

##### **Prayer**

O God of depth and mystery,  
You call us beyond convention  
to a way of risky faithfulness.  
Fill our dreams with your truth  
and our minds with your discernment  
so that we, like Joseph,  
may awaken with confidence and joy  
to open our lives and make room for You.

### 4. Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1; 3-7

#### *Jesus is Born*

##### **Prayer**

O Fragile Savior  
You come, unprotected,  
into our dangerous world  
and offer yourself as our Peace.  
Let our Joy be to seek your Peace  
let our Hope be to foster your Peace  
let our Purpose be to announce your Peace  
with all the fervor of the Angels and  
all the courage of the Poor:  
Glory to God in the Highest,  
and on earth, God's Peace!

## Candlelight Service Benediction

*At end of the service, when the individual candles are still lighted and the sanctuary lights are still down, the Leader may invite the congregation with these words*

Welcome, Holy Child!

Your presence transforms our lives.

Sisters and Brothers, before we go forth from this peaceful place,

let us take a good look around us at one another:

see what beauty is revealed among us in the light of Christ!

*Give people enough time to see their neighbors' faces illuminated by candlelight, then start to bring the sanctuary lights up*

Now, let us extinguish these small lights and go forth

bearing the Light of Christ in our hearts to **Let it Shine** in our world!

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