

God of Grace and God of Mercy: Before Thy
 throne we humble ourselves, Seeking forgiveness
 for our feeble efforts to understand the
 Magnitude and meaning of Christ ^{in His life and}
 for our indifference to that for which He
 lived and died. For the trifling selfishness
 that fills our time with other things, our
 minds with other thoughts, our hearts with
 other loves, and the rooms of our lives with
 lesser guests until Christ is crowded out,
 we plead Thy forgiveness, O Lord. At
 this Christmas ^{time} season, give us the disposition
 to let Christ be born anew within each
 of our lives, Creating in us a new Outlook,
 new serenity, firmer convictions, and a new
 spirit.

May the spirit of Jesus help to heal the wounds
 and scars left by misunderstanding, betrayal
 of trust, and evil deeds. Help those who have
 been wronged to forgive and those who have
 wronged to repent. Cleanse us of ambitions
 that have no rightful place in the Christian
 heart. Turn our eyes to men & women whose hopes
 have turned to ashes; our ears to the cries of
 children denied proper chances in life; and
 our energies to those caught in complex circumstances.
 We pray for love and goodness to those

^{are finding life through}
who have no Christmas - for boys and
girls whose hands press against store windows
while their eyes devour the glories they can
never touch. We pray penitence for those
who think they are having Christmas, but
have none because of hearts torn by hate, twisted
by prejudice, crippled by pride, and betrayed
by deceit.

We pray for steppingstones to higher
things for children in whose homes the
Candles have been put out by fear and pestilence
and for the darkened millions who go to
bed hungry. We pray for faith, patience,
and consolation to those whose homes
are empty with the passing of loved ones.
Tie all these cares to our hearts, O God.

Amen!