

Eternal God, Alpha and Omega, who stands at the end and the beginning of our lives, we worship you. In this season when your people prepare again for the advent of our Saviour, we do especially recall how you took our hate and met it with your love, took our death and deadliness and transformed it into new life, took our tiredness and met it with a baby in a manger.

Having witnessed your solidarity with the human race and all our cares in your incarnation, we are therefore bold to pray for all brothers and sisters caught in entanglements of hate, death, or evil.

We pray for all those who feel trapped in habits they are unable, by themselves, to overcome. O God of triumph, help them to overcome.

We pray for those present here today who find it difficult to believe. O God, whose angels confronted the doubts of Zechariah and Mary, assuage our doubts and bring us to sure faith.

We pray for those who, in this season of joy, suffer from great sadness - the terminally ill, the severely injured, the victims of war or civil unrest. O God of life, who disarmed arrogant King Herod and came to earth among the poor and the lowly, come among us and stand beside

those who hurt.

No pray for people and needs that lay heavy
on our hearts this day. Teach us to hurt with and to
act for others. Because you did not leave us to
our own devices, but came and stood beside us,
continue to sustain us —



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