

Postoral prayer: Eternal God, alpha and Omega,
who stands at the ~~beginning~~ and the beginning of our
lines, we worship you. In this season when your
people prepare again for the advent of our Saviour,
we especially recall how you took our hate and
met it with love, took our death and deadliness and
transformed it into new life, took our tiredness and
met it with a ~~rest~~ in a manger.

Having witnessed your solidarity with the human
race and all our cores in your incarnation, we are
therefore bold to pray for all brethren and sisters caught
in ^{our} entanglement of hate, death and evil.

We pray for those present here today who find
it difficult to believe. O God, whose ~~some~~
angels can fronted the doubts of Bechariah 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 civil
unrest. O God of life, who disarmed aro-
gant King Herod and came to earth among
the poor and the lowly, come among us and
stand beside those who hurt.

We pray for people and needs that lay
heavy on our hearts this day, which we name
in the silence of our hearts (silence)
Teach us to hurt with and to act for others. Be-
cause you did not leave us to our own de-
vices, but ~~and~~ stood beside us, become ~~some~~
our Brother, our Saviour, our Friend, we
know that we can turn to you in prayer, asking
things that we once regarded as impossible, knowing
that now, by your grace, all is possible -

Lord, we are closing in on the big day!
Christmas has changed so much down through
the years. From the humble beginning in Bethlehem,
you were born in a stable and laid in a manger, Christ-
mas has become an elaborate festival that includes
decorations, special music, and the exchanging of gifts.
Unfortunately, the myth of Santa Claus has replaced
the reality of Christ. Help us today to find the
true joy of Xmas in the fact that you loved
us enough

one of us. Amen