

Pastor's Prayer: Loving God, we
 are grateful for the many good
 experiences of Christmas.
 For the time we are privi-
 leged to spend with family
 and friends, for the joy of
 giving and receiving gifts
 of love, for times of in-
 spiration and closeness with
 you, the Giver of our thanks.
 Especially we are grateful for
 your gift to us at Christ-
 mas: the gift of your Son
 and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are grateful that we
 are coming to you in prayer
 when it seems too busy
 for us, but is always ready
 to listen, always willing
 to love us and forgive
 us, always able to give
 us what we need. We do
 not deserve such gracious care,
 but we need it, and are grate-
 ful for it. And, when we are
 at our best, we know that
 our best hope in life
 is in reaching into your
 storehouse of love and
 allowing you to give

us the gifts you want to
give.

For, we are grateful for
the way your love has already
blessed our lives. You have
called us into being and
have given us a good world
in which to live. You
have touched us by the
caring concern of families,
teachers, and friends. You
have ministered to us
through your Church. You
have guided us when we
confused, forgiven us when
we were failing, comforted
us when we were hurting,
come to us when we were
alone, strengthened us when
we were faltering, and
again and again loved us into
new life. We know, when we
are thinking clearly, that all
we are and all we ever hope
to be, we owe to you
and to the generosity of your
great love.

Help us to share that love with
others. Help us to know that love
spins and loses its power
when we try to hoard
it selfishly. Give us
the Spirit of our God.