

Prayers of the People – Sunday January 5

The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Bidding: God of love, guide us by the light of your star
And draw us back to yourself.

O God, the source of all insight,
whose coming was revealed to the nations,
not among the wealthy or powerful,
but instead to ordinary shepherds,
and on a woman's lap:
Grant us the grace to seek you where you may be found,
and that the wisdom of the world,
that ever-insatiable desire for wealth, power and self-fulfilment,
may be humbled.

Janet Morley, adapted by IV

God of love, guide us by the light of your star,
And draw us back to yourself.

As you led the Magi by a star,
to worship your only begotten son, the Christ-child,
that light that would reveal you to the Gentiles and all peoples of the world:
Grant us, the Parish of St Peter,
that same diligence to seek and reveal the love of Christ to all,
both inside and outside our red doors.
Yet let us also, like Herod, be disturbed from our comfort and complacency.
Guide us:
to be a voice to those who have none,
to love the lepers, the alienated, and the unlovable and
to act for justice when laws oppress, pain is overlooked, and tradition speaks louder than need.

Daily Office SSF, p555, Author unknown, adapted by IV

God of love, guide us by the light of your star,
And draw us back to yourself.

May that same star lighten the darkness and bring hope
to all people caught up in war, and unrest,
to those facing persecution,
to those living in unsafe or unhappy homes,
and to those who have lost hope in you, and in themselves.

May your light comfort, heal, and restore to wholeness
all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit, and
those who are numbed and desolate because of grief and loss.

Let us also remember before you all who have diligently sought you in ages past and are now on
another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which we cannot number, whose hope too was
in the Word made flesh.

God of love, guide us by the light of your star,
And draw us back to yourself.

Finally let us pray for ourselves and our ministries using the words of St Gregory the Great:

O good Jesus
Word of the Father and brightness of his glory
whom angels desire to behold:
teach us to do your will
and to keep seeking you diligently
that, guided not by a star, but by your Spirit,
we may come to that blessed city of everlasting day,
where all are one in heart and mind,
where there is safety and eternal peace,
happiness and delight,
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
world without end.
Amen.

St Gregory the Great (604), adapted by IV