**A LITANY for Christmas:**

Most Holy and Blessed One,

You sent your beloved Son into the world

as a newborn infant;

May the simple manger remind us of

your arms that hold us.

May blessed Mary remind us of

your mothering love.

May steadfast Joseph remind us of

your fathering love.

May the friendly beasts remind us of

the goodness of all creation.

May the watchful shepherds remind us of

your care for us.

May the journeying Magi remind us of

the gifts we give and receive.

May the glorious angels remind us of

 the astonishing news

of the birth of our Saviour.

*Anne E Kitch Canon at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.*

If you would like further information, or to volunteer as a *Guest Editor,* please contact:

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**THE PASTORAL VISITOR**

***A Link Between You and Your Church Community***

For all your saints still striving,

for all your saints at rest,

Your holy name, O Jesus,

 for evermore be blessed.

You rose, our King victorious,

 that they might wear the crown

And ever shine in splendour

reflected from your throne.

*Words by Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913)*

*Hymn # 283, Book of Common Praise Verse 1 ACC.*

My Beloved said, “My name is not complete without yours.”

I thought: How can a human’s worth be such?

And then God knowing all our thoughts - and all our thoughts are innocent steps on the path - then addressed my heart, God revealed a sublime truth to the world, when (God) sang, “I am made whole by your life. Each soul, each soul completes me.”

*Hafiz (1315-1390) Persian Poet*

Name of Chaplain, Pastor, Priest, or Visitor:

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Contact:

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Apostles, prophets, martyrs,

and all the noble throng

who wear the spotless raiment,

 and raised the ceaseless song:

for them and those whose witness

 is only known to you,

by walking in their footsteps

 we give you praise anew.

*Hymn CPr#283 Verse 2 (for All Saints)*

O God, grant that looking upon the face of the Lord as into a glass, we may be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. Take out of us all pride and vanity, boasting and forwardness, and give us the true courage which shows itself by gentleness, the true wisdom which shows itself by simplicity, and the true power which shows itself by modesty.

*Charles Kingsley (1819-1875) Anglican clergyman and novelist.*

O God, you have let me pass this day in peace,

Let me pass the night in peace.

O Lord who has no lord,

there is no strength but in thee.

Thou alone hast no obligation.

Under thy hand I pass the night.

Thou art my mother and my father.

*Boran of Kenya as collected into An African Prayer Book, edited by Desmond Tutu.*

*Before an Operation:*

Strengthen your servant, O God, to do what must be done and bear what must be borne, accepting your healing gifts through the skill of surgeons and nurses. Grant a full recovery and a grateful heart. AMEN

Then let us praise Creator,

 and worship, Jesus, Son,

And sing to Holy Spirit,

 eternal Three-in-One

till all the ransomed number

 who stand before the throne

ascribe all power and glory

 and praise to God alone.

*Hymn CPr#283 Verse 3*