



## A Christmas Prayer

By Rev. A. N. MARSHALL, First Baptist Church, Winnipeg

**B**LESSED AND ETERNAL GOD, The Holy Child Jesus doth lead us unto Thee. We bless Thee that Thou dost not stand afar off, but that Thou dost come down to us in the Name and the Person of the Son of Mary. Son of God, dwelling in the Heaven of Heavens, Thou also hast habitation among the sons of men. We celebrate Thy dwelling amongst us. May every heart be its own Bethlehem, and every day a Xmas Day. ✽ Thy coming afresh to our hearts and homes will make them sanctuaries of peace. Childhood, Motherhood and Brotherhood find their deepest and sweetest meaning in Thee. Yea, Thou hast redeemed the common lot of man and enabled the poorest of Earth's sons to wear a robe of glory. ✽ We are not ashamed to bow down before the Child since in Him we worship the Incarnate God. ✽ Reveal to us life's glory in the midst of its shame; teach us the joy of living; help us to sing the gladdest songs; and educate our hearts and lives in all loving ministries. Make us sensitive to all the influences associated with innocence, love, soft music, sweet perfume, sacrifice and noblest life. ✽ With Thee to rock our cradles, open the doors of our schools, determine our vocations, challenge our powers and possessions and control our governments, all will be well and our loved land will become a Christian land. ✽ Great blessings have followed Thy Cradle and Thy Cross. We would now crown Thee, Lord, in all things. ✽ We know that messages of peace are daily whispered into the ears of a striving world and yet there is need for the angels' song. Let the angels sing on; let the day of fulfilment draw near. Give us, we humbly pray, purer hearts, brighter homes and happier, stronger lives, and urge the blessed message of peace, joy, love and redemption upon the needy ones of this and every land. AMEN.