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*Madam*

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**Christmas Prayer**

By REV. JOHN MACKAY, D.D.

Principal Westminster Hall, Vancouver, B.C.

**T**hou Who art the King, Eternal, Immortal and Invisible, Who fillest all things with the glorious majesty of Thy Holiness, our spirits yearn after Thee. Thou hast made us for Thyself, and like wandered children, we are hungry for the home glow of Thy Presence. Give us the filial spirit that we may know our oneness with Thee and with all Thy children; that we may pass this Christmas-tide in the secret of Thy Presence, in fellowship with Thee and them through Christ.

We bow in awe before Thee; Thy purity rebukes our petty aims and mean desires; our secret thoughts are naked and open before Thee. Who is a God like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders! Great art Thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; Thy greatness is unsearchable, and we would hallow Thy Holy Name. Amid the perplexities of these dark days, help us to hear the Heavenly Chorus, "Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth," and with a faith that rises above the horror and the tumult of war, enter into the peace of God that passeth all understanding, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

May He Who was born in Bethlehem be born anew in our hearts, making us Christ-like in spirit and in life, seeking that His Kingdom may come in us and through us into all the world.

Make us sensitive to Thy presence, that we may enter into Thy wise and holy counsels for us and all men. The way is very dark. Leave us not alone or we must surely fail. Reveal Thy will to us and enable us to persevere therein to the end. Give us grace to do that will, even though it lead us to a cross. Irradiate the Cross with Thy presence, and we shall find in it the life which is hid with Christ in Thee.

Feed us with food convenient for us, and give us those things Thou seest we need to keep our bodies as temples meet for Thy dwelling. Hear the cry of the destitute; so stir our hearts and guide our hands that none may perish for lack of the bounties Thy dear gift give so freely. We commend unto Thee our dear ones, called to do battle that the radiance of Christmas may not perish from the earth. Be very near to them in these days when hearts hunger for home and love and Thee. Keep them brave and steadfast, clean and true. Comfort the prisoner, the wounded and the lonely-hearted. Speak peace to the dying, and give strength to the sad and anxious ones. May Thy presence be very real to all those who minister to the sick and the dying. Endue those who rule over us with wisdom and righteousness that Thy way may be done among us, and that we may have victory over our foes within and without. Deliber our nation and our Empire from every widespread sin. Make us willing to die for the things that are simple, and true and honest and of good report. Bless and sustain our Allies, making them and us fit to be trusted with victory and peace.

May all the truths and hopes that gather round the manger of Bethlehem translate themselves into living forms of service and of life in all the nations. May the beauty of holiness come over the whole earth, and peace founded upon righteousness be speedily established. Thus shall the promise of the first Christmas-tide find new fulfilment to the glory of Thy thrice Holy Name. Amen.

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