

## Meditation

Pastor Dionne

Luke 2:1-20

Prayer of Preparation: *God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of Jesus's birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the hope of our salvation in the Christ child. On this most holy of nights, may our worship befit the Prince of Peace, who came to show us the depths of your love. Amen.*

It is the grace of God which brings us to worship tonight. It is the grace of God which sent us a child, born for all of us. It is the grace of God which placed authority on his shoulders. It is the grace of God poured out on all humanity which gave us salvation.

Today, we celebrate the birth of a wonderful counselor, born to impart wisdom to kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, czars and emperors, and you and me.

Today, we celebrate the birth of a Mighty God, born to reign in heaven and on earth.

Today, we celebrate the birth of the Everlasting Father, born to embrace all of humanity as beloved of God.

Today, we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, one sent to bring God's peace to all the world.  
Today, we celebrate the birth of the One who was, and is, and is to come.

Today, we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ.

As we celebrate, let us pray: Wonderful Counselor, open the hearts of the world's leaders to your wisdom that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.

Mighty God, open the hearts and minds of the Church that our joy may be increased as we share in the harvest you have gathered.

Everlasting Father, we pray for families, friends, and loved ones. Help them to know that you are with them. May they see your light and your saving love.

Prince of Peace, open the hearts and minds of humanity that we may see endless peace in every land. We pray for an end to violence and warfare. May your authority continue to grow in our hearts and minds as we become the peace of this world.

Lord of hosts, as Isaiah did those many years ago, help us to cast a vision of a world in which your peace, love, joy, hope reign. And, as we cast the vision, may *we* be peace, love, joy, and hope to all. **Amen.**