

PASTORAL PRAYER

for Dec. 17, 1961

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Dear God, source of all thought, beauty and freedom; maker of all things, both material and spiritual; we praise thee. Thou whose love and concern for us is so beautifully revealed in the words of Christmas carols, which we sing at this time of the year, we adore thee.

We know that we think as we ought not; that we leave undone things we ought to do; that we sometimes deliberately do wrong. We seek to be truly penitent. Forgive us when we are sincerely sorry.

We thank thee for the beautiful decorations which we use at this season of the year to brighten and beautify our homes and community. We thank thee for the love for each

other which causes us to want to make gifts to loved ones and friends, and to enjoy doing it. We are grateful for the prosperity which enables us to do these things. As Christmas draws nearer help us to be truly grateful for the Christ child, whose blessings are available to all people alike, regardless of degree of material prosperity. We thank thee for everything that we have and know.

Give us today a sense of warmth which comes from Thy presence. Lead us in our worship. Help us to remember with love and tolerance those who belong to our church but for various reasons are not with us today. Give ease from their pain, and healing where possible, to the ill. To all who need help grant inner assurance of thy love and concern for them. We would rededicate ourselves to Thee during this hour, as repeatedly we must because of our failures and weaknesses.

Hear thou our prayer. Grant to all who put their trust in thee all that we ask for ourselves.

In Jesus name. Amen.