

From Fr. Fleming's Desk



Dear God,

There's an empty chair by the tree,
an ache in our hearts
and tears on our faces...

We may try to shield one another
from the grief we bear
but we cannot hide it from you...

We remember and we pray for *(names)*
whose presence we miss so much
in these days of peace and joy...

Open our hearts and minds
to the healing, the warmth,
the light of your presence...

We pray, Lord, and we trust
that those we miss have found the place
you've prepared for them:
a home within your heart...

Open up our hearts, Lord,
to joyful memories of the love we shared
with those who've gone before us...

Be with us as we sing and cry our way
through Christmas carols...

Help us unwrap the gift you offer us:
the gift of peace,
born long ago in Bethlehem,
in Christ the Prince of peace...

Help us tell again the stories
that make the past present once again
and bring us close
to those we miss...

Teach us, Lord, to lean on you
and on each other
for the strength we need
to walk the path of sorrows and joys
the holiday season brings...

And give us quiet moments
with you, Lord, with our thoughts,
with our memories and our prayers...

Be with us, Lord,
and hold us in your arms
as we pray you hold all those
who've gone before us...

Help us to trust that one day
we'll be again with those we love
when your mercy gathers all together
in the peace and joy you promise...

It's Christmas, Lord -
the only one we'll have this year:
help us to rejoice in it
and find in the comfort of your presence
the blessings of your peace...

Amen.

*(From my blog: ConcordPastor.blogspot.com
Please share with anyone who might find this helpful in
the Christmas season...)*