

# Prayers around the Christmas Tree

*The leader may begin:*

In the beginning God made the world and saw it was good. Long ago, God placed a tree in the garden of paradise as his gift to all human beings, a tree of wisdom and knowledge and laden with every good thing. Our Christmas Tree reminds us of that tree. Long ago too, God's kindness appeared in the coming of Christ, who is our hope of eternal life. This tree is a sign of Christ's blessings.

## A Reading from the Book of Genesis

This is the story of the heavens and the earth after their creation.

When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,  
there was neither shrub nor plant growing on the earth,  
because the Lord God had sent no rain;  
nor was there anyone to till the ground...

The Lord God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,  
so that he became a living creature.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden away to the east,  
and in it he put the man he had formed...  
and in the middle of the garden he set the tree of life.

*Genesis 2: 4-9*

*Then all pray:*

Lord  
our God,  
the heavens are  
the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars you  
made;  
the earth and the sea, and every  
living creature came into being  
by your word. And all of us, too.  
May this tree bring cheer to this house  
though Jesus Christ your good and holy Son,  
who  
brings life  
and beauty to us  
and to our world.  
Lighting this tree, we hope in his promise.



Dear God, two thousand years ago, you brought your son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we raise this tree, we remember his birth and the meaning of his life for us. Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for his sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen.