

# Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem

Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem,

As you were born into a family who  
fled to Egypt as refugees,  
help us grow in solidarity with  
refugees everywhere,  
to know we are all refugees,  
until our hearts find refuge in you.

As you were born under an  
oppressive regime,  
let us grow in solidarity with those  
whose governments deny them  
their rights  
and try to undermine their dignity.  
Help us work for just governance  
everywhere.

As it was workers, the shepherds,  
who first came to know you, the  
carpenter's son,  
let us remember the dignity of  
human labor—  
that you share a special love for  
those who work hard for their  
sustenance,  
and toil beside them.  
Let us honor you, in work and in  
prayer,  
that livelihoods may be secure,  
and that workers not be exploited.

As you were adored by the Magi  
who came from far-off nations  
to honor you,  
let us bring to all nations the  
great good news that is your  
love.

As your coming was joyfully sung  
by angels,  
let us with joy celebrate the gift  
of life every time a child of  
God is conceived,  
and honor that gift with our care.

As you were denied any  
birthplace but a stable,  
help us to open our homes, our  
lives, our hearts to the coming  
of God and his presence in  
your people.

Be born this time into our hearts,  
dear Lord.

Gracious Lord, Child of  
Bethlehem,  
through the cradle of our hearts,  
be born into our world.

**Amen**