

A Prayer for All God's Children

Leader: The light of God surrounds me.
The Love of God enfolds me.
The Power of God protects me.
And the presence of God watches over me.

ALL: **Wherever I am, God is**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 18:1-6;19:14

One day, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had the child stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. And whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to lose faith, it would be better for him to have a boulder hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Let the little children come to me. Do not hold them back, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

The Gospel of our Lord

(Silent Reflection)

ALL: Oh Jesus, who gathered children in your lap
Today we pray
for the children of our church
for the children of our city
for the children of our world.

May they live without fear of guns and bombs.
May they live without hunger for food or love.
May they live without the shadow of violence stunting their growth.

May each day bring them
enough hugs for a smile
enough friends for security
enough adults to provide guidance

May they grow in faith so that they walk as your children,
children of grace, joy, and peace.

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, whose anger was once terribly kindled against those who hurt the children, we beseech You to bring to repentance to all those who through cruelty, abuse or carelessness bring the innocent to harm.

We asked this through Christ our Lord, **Amen**