



CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

Theme – The Gifts of Love and Joy
"Let love be your life, your light, your joy." – Cornelia Connelly

Goal 4: Justice. Holy Child Schools promote Catholic social teaching in every facet of life as we carry out our motto, "Actions Not Words."

Singers:

Instrumentalists:

PRELUDE: Instrumental – Christmas songs by 3 students

CALL TO PRAYER: Led by 2 students

Student 1:: As we begin, we acknowledge that Mayfield Senior School and much of the greater Los Angeles area sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Gabrielino Tongva people. We pause to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the strength and creativity that indigenous peoples have shown and continue to show globally. *[pause]* We also take a moment to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built. We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all documented and undocumented immigrant labor that contributes to the building of the country. *[pause]* To the people on whose land we stand and to those who contributed immeasurable work, and to their descendants, we acknowledge their indelible mark on this space in which we gather today. It is our collective responsibility to teach these histories, to repair harm, and to honor, protect, and sustain this land. *[pause]*

Student 2: We gathered today for our Christmas Prayer Service, centered on the theme "The Gifts of Love and Joy." As we anticipate the Christmas season, we pause to reflect on how God's never-ending love and mercy urges us to embrace kindness and live with compassion, service, and justice. Today's service is planned by the Campus Ministry Council, the heart of faith life on our campus – 43 student leaders striving to take on the growth of our spiritual life as a community. CMC works throughout the year to plan Masses and prayer services. Inspired by the wisdom and life of Cornelia Connelly, She invites each of us to "Let love be your life, your light, your joy." God has planted that light within us. May we use it boldly to lift others up and shine goodness wherever we go. May we always strive to choose joy and kindness even when the world makes it hard. As we prepare for our Christmas break, let us take this moment to reflect on the meaning of this holy season and open our hearts to the coming of Jesus Christ. *[pause]* Let us now stand and join in singing our opening hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

OPENING SONG: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL Led by 1 student

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING PRAYER: Led by 1 student

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

O God, Source of Light and wisdom, we thank You for the gifts of this day, for the friendships we share and for the love that surrounds us. Most of all, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, whose love lights the world and fills our lives with joy, and whose birth reminds us of the power of hope, the beauty of love, and the call to serve others with generosity. In this season of giving, You are the light that breaks into the shadows of our world. Open our hearts to feel the gift of your son, the Holy Child Jesus, and reflect Your light in our school, our families, and beyond Mayfield. Open our eyes to

the hurting, the lonely, and the forgotten, that we might be instruments of Your peace and compassion. Bless our time together and guide us to listen to the promptings of the spirit of Christmas in our hearts. We ask this in the name of your son, the Holy Child Jesus in whose spirit we are one, forever and ever. Amen.
Please be seated.

LIGHT as an EXPRESSION of the THE GIFTS OF LOVE AND JOY – Led by 1 student: Cornelia's words, "Let love be your life, your light, your joy" invite us to remember that love is most powerful when it is lived and shared — when it becomes a guiding light that shines. When we choose to be light, we offer a gentle presence that can help guide, give comfort and bring joy with those around us. We present these candles as sacred symbols of the Light within us and as expressions of the gifts of Love and Joy that endure. **May we celebrate and carry it forth to share with others...**

- Candle of light in the darkness, [student]
- Candle of grace in the suffering, [student]
- Candle of joy despite all sadness, [student]
- Candle of hope where despair keeps watch, [student]
- Candle of courage for fears ever present, [student]
- Candle of peace for tumultuous days, [student]
- Candle of forgiveness for all the difficulties, [student]
- Candle of love to embrace all that is Life, [student]
- Candle that will light all year long. [student]

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:15-20 Proclaimed by student with liturgical movement [4 students]

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Luke

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Lord, Jesus Christ.

HOMILY: Head of School

PERSONAL REFLECTION: student

SILENT REFLECTION: Candlelight Carol / John Rutter

By Instrumentalists 5 students

PETITIONS: Led by 3 students

Student 1: Loving and gracious God, as we gather in your presence, we lift our hearts to you in trust and hope. Hear the prayers we place before you today, as a community committed to living your compassion and justice. Let our response be: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. **Student 1:** For all Church and government leaders, may they always lead by example and respond to the needs of the common good especially those who are most vulnerable in our communities and societies, we pray to the Lord. [raise your right hand]
2. **Student 1::** For peace, especially for all victims of war, poverty, and injustice, may they find protection, strength, and hope in the midst of adversity and challenges, we pray to the Lord. [raise your right hand] 3. **Dylan:** For the integrity of creation, may we be a community that embraces one another and extends compassionate care to our common home, Mother Earth, we pray to the Lord. [raise your right hand] 4. **Dylan:** For the many

needs of our world, may we turn to God in moments of hardship and come together as a community to support and uplift our neighbors, we pray to the Lord. *[raise your right hand]*

5. **Student 2::** For the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Network of Holy Child Schools, through the inspiration of our founder, Cornelia Connelly, may we unite in living out our guiding motto: "Actions, not words," we pray to the Lord. *[raise your right hand]*

6. **Student 2::** For all those celebrating the holidays in whatever form, religious or cultural tradition, may we always seek our commonalities and respect and celebrate our differences, we pray to the Lord.

7. **Student 3:** For each of us and for all our families, may God watch over us, strengthen us, and fill our lives with peace and love especially during this Christmas season and all year through, we pray to the Lord. *[raise your right hand]*

8. **Student 3:** For the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts *[pause 5 seconds]*, and for all those who are most in need of our prayers at this moment *[pause 5 seconds]*, we pray to the Lord. *[raise your right hand]* **Lauren:** God of mercy and compassion, strengthen our faith as we offer these petitions—spoken and unspoken— and help us to hear your voice in the needs of our world. Keep our families, our community, and all whom we hold in our hearts safe within your loving care. Send us forth as instruments of your peace, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of the Holy Child Jesus, in whose spirit we are one, forever and ever. Amen.

As one community, let us join hands and pray, Our Father...

GIFT-SONG by Senior Singers: Baby what you goin to be?

Student: As seniors on our final Christmas prayer service with you, we offer you our gift of song. Let us reflect on the love, light, and joy that shape every life from its earliest moments. Our song, "Baby What You Goin' to Be?" invites us to imagine how those gifts grow within us, guiding our path and purpose. As you listen, may we be inspired to nurture that light in one another, helping every story unfold with hope.

CLOSING PRAYER: Led by student

O God, source of all goodness, we offer our hearts in gratitude for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us. In this season of joy, help us to reflect Your Light through respect, kindness and acceptance to one another, and especially to those in need. Keep us steadfast in hope, knowing that Your light will never be overcome by darkness. May we share our blessings freely, just as You have shared your love and life with us. Strengthen our hearts to give generously, not only with our resources but with our time, our love, and our attention. *[pause]*

Let us all pray.

ALL: May we spend time with those we love and cherish and may the spirit of the Christmas season inspire us to live with appreciation and gratitude every day of the year. May we be women and men of courage and compassion, and see You in the faces of those who are struggling and suffering, and may our words and actions bring peace, comfort, and joy to others and be the light that our world needs. We ask this in the name of the Holy Child Jesus, in whose spirit we are one forever and ever, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us please join in the singing of our closing song: Joy to the World.

CLOSING SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD Led by student

1. Joy to the world [3x], the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King, Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing [2x]. And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world [3x], the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains

Repeat the sounding joy [2x]. Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

ASB President: Thank you everyone for your participation. Please be seated. I now call Mrs. Farrell.

CLOSING REMARKS: Head of School

DISMISSAL: ASB President

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Reader Organizers: 1 student

Planning Coordinators: 2 students

Musicians: 6 students and 1 teacher

Instrumentalists: 5 students and 1 teacher