

Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem

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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