

gracious Lord, child of Bethlehem

Gracious Lord, Child of
Bethlehem,
As you were born a refugee to
parents who first fled to
Bethlehem and then to
Egypt,
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