

**Celebrant:** Our God is a God of joy, who delights to be with us. As people of faith, we rejoice in our Saviour, who hears us when we call him and renews us in his love.

- 1** For the whole human family: That a new spirit of hope and joy will come to birth in every heart and every home. [pause] **Lord hear us.**  
Lord hear our prayer.
- 2** For all sectors of Australian society: that they heed the Baptist's call for an ethic of sharing, honesty and justice. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 3** For family members and loved ones still separated by travel restrictions: that they will soon be able to meet again safely in person.  
[pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 4** For households under increased stress at this time of the year, that they will find ways of defusing anger and easing the threat of violence.  
[pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 5** For our faith community: as we prepare for Christmas, may our hearts be open to the many ways we can serve others. [pause] **Lord hear us.**
- 6** We pray for our sick relatives and friends, and for all who feel forgotten in their hour of need. We pray for those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they enjoy eternal peace in God's kingdom.  
[pause] **Lord hear us.**

**Celebrant:**

**Come, O come, Emmanuel.  
Draw near to your people  
whose hearts are open to you in prayer.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**