

LOVE LIFE LIVE ADVENT MAKE ROOM FOR THE MANGER

ACTION SUPPORT: YOUR PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

A Christmas tree is a focal point in the house, a celebration of life in the cold of winter. Although it's usually considered part of the secular celebration of Christmas, using it as a focus for prayer during the Christmas season can be very powerful, as the needs of the world and those we love are put in pride of place, and surrounded by beauty and light.

At home

If you're not sure of your artistic skills, why not use shop-bought gift tags as your prayer cards? Most come with their own thread, so they're easy to hang and are sparkly and beautiful to look at. Star-shaped glittery tags are particularly effective. If you keep a pile of them near your tree, together with a pen, you can add more when you think of them. You might like to do this as you watch the news one evening, naming those places that most need God's blessing and peace.



At church

Some churches bulk-buy such gift tags and make them available to those who attend services, inviting everyone to write a prayer, or just a name, on a tag and hang it on the church's Christmas tree.

Gift tags can be given out with service sheets at carol services, crib services, and Christingle services. With large congregations, you can simply invite people to place their tag in the offertory plate, so that they can be hung on the tree after the service.