

But let our joy and radiance of this season be infectious within our community, in our world place, and help us to perpetuate your peace to all. For it is in the name of the Bethlehem Babe that we pray, and has taught us to pray saying —

In our Scripture lesson for the day, John admonishes us, by saying, "you prepare for the Lord. Fill in those valleys, cut down those hills. Take your crooked, rough life and make it straight and smooth so that you'll be ready to see God." That's our purpose for celebrating the Advent.

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Opening Prayer: Facing God, how could John's message be for me? After all, we are here, we participated in the Advent Candle ceremony, and we sing the hymns. We give our money, not as much as we could, or as much as God would want us to, but I give. God, could the John of 2,000 years ago know that I am a sinner? How could he know that I separate ourselves from you, our God, our neighbors, and even from ourselves. We want our lives to shine with the radiance and joy of you. So we cry out for you to lead us in your ways, help us to walk deeply inside so that with your help, our paths will made straight, our valleys will be filled, and our mountains leveled. In the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen!

A pastoral prayer: O God, you are the giver of every good thing, and for this Christian community, this body of believers, we give you thanks. For the expectations and expectations of the seasons, we give you thanks. For the voices of Chimes, bells, Carols, for the smells of pine, holiday foods, smoke from the Christmas tree lot, for the sights of lights, colors, loaves, and berries — for all of this, we give you thanks. Be with the others, God, those who do not have dinner tables or communion tables, those whose wants are as great as our abundance, those whose mouths, hearts, and souls do not laugh during this season.