

Advent Christmas

PRAYER SHEET

GATHERING

Sit quietly and allow yourself to come to stillness.

Breathe in life, breathe out peace.

Be conscious of God's presence within you, around you.

You are invited to read slowly and take time to reflect upon the following quotes:

"Whoever we are...
We are called into partnership with the Divine
Jesus comes to us in the mist of
Everyday fragments and asks us
To create space for him
Where He has never been before..."

Joyce Rupp

(Pause)

The power of God revealed in Christmas is the power of a baby, nothing more, nothing less; innocence, gentleness, helplessness, a vulnerability that can soften hearts, invite in, have us hush our voices, teach us patience and call forth what's best in us.

An infant lying in the straw didn't outgun anyone. He just lay there, waiting for anyone good or bad to come to him, see his helplessness, feel a tug at their heartstrings and then gently try to contact the little one.

That is still how God meets us. Such is the way of God, the message of Christmas.

Ronald Rolheiser

(Pause)

THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

JESUS IS
THE MOST
PERFECT GIFT
TO ALL OF US FROM
GOD. JESUS GAVE US
THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND
THE LIFE, WE ARE CALLED TO
BE A GIFT TO ALL PEOPLE: TO BE
THE WAY OF CHRIST, THE TRUTH OF
CHRIST, AND THE LIFE OF CHRIST. OUR
LIVES ARE OUR RESPONSE TO THE CALL
OF CHRIST TO BE LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS,
PEACEMAKERS IN THE TURMOIL, IMAGES OF
GOD'S LOVE AND PEOPLE OF GOD AND REFLECTION.
THIS CHRISTMAS
WHAT GIFT WILL
YOU BE? WHAT
GIFTS OF YOUR
SELF WILL YOU
OPEN TO OTHERS?

Time

Sharing

Laughter

Listening

Generosity

Friendship

Compass-

"Every act of love is a personalisation of God
and when God is born through our lives
Heaven can unfold on earth."

Ilia Delio

You may wish to discuss the most meaningful gift you can give...to others, and also to yourself.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Closing PRAYER

Response: God of Presence, be born anew in
our hearts

Every act of love is a personalisation of God
and when God is born through our lives,
Heaven can unfold on earth.

* May we open our hearts to the truth that
you are born and reborn in our world through
the Incarnate Word and through the re-
generation of all creation.

May Christ be born in our hearts
In a special way during these days
as we venture further into the mind
and heart of God.

Response

* May you bring to birth in us your deepest
desires for us and our world. Re-
sponse

Make ready for the Christ -
whose smile, like lightning
sets free the song of everlasting life
that now sleeps in your paper flesh
like Dynamite!

* May peacefulness and justice in our
neighbourhood and country be our deep

Thomas Merton

