



A Liturgy

to Mark the Start of the Christmas Season

by Douglas McKelvey, "Every Moment Holy"

leader As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season, we would also prepare our hearts for the returning of Christ.

people **You came once for your people, O Lord, and you will come for us again.**

Though there was no room at the inn to receive you upon your first arrival
**We would prepare you room here in our hearts
and here in our home, Lord Christ.**

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to mark the memory of your redemptive movement into our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees,
Our festive carols, our sumptuous feasts --
**By these small tokens we affirm that something amazing
has happened in time and space --**

that God, on a particular night, in a particular place, so many years ago,
was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights, our giving of gifts, our parties with friends -- these have never been ends in themselves.

**They are but small ways in which we repeat that sounding joy first
proclaimed by angels in the skies near Bethlehem.**

In view of such great tidings of love announced to us, and to all people, how can we not be moved to praise and celebration in this Christmas season?

**As we decorate our tree, and as we feast and laugh and sing together,
we are rehearsing our coming joy!**

We are making ready to receive the one who has already,
with open arms, received us!

**We would prepare you room here in our hearts
and here in our home, Lord Christ.**

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel, even as we long for your return.

O Prince of Peace, our elder brother, return soon. We miss you so!

Amen





As a mom my temptation has been

to get an A+ as the most fun, the most intentional mom ever during Christmas. But I know from experience that I won't get an A+. And that's not the gospel anyway. Instead, I can offer my empty jar to the Lord, and ask him to use me as a vessel, a jar of clay, carrying the beautiful message of Christ and his coming this Christmas.

Caroline Cobb

Risen Motherhood Podcast #146: Finding Rest in Advent

...the best part about you

isn't what you produce or create. And your pie might be awesome and your house might be cute, but the presence and power of God IN YOU changes the room.

The truth you speak changes conversations and the lives around you. The way you listen and love well loosens spiritual strongholds. Your hugs, your hope, your humor - it's all better than any food or place setting or feelings of awe that might be produced at your awesome outfit.

Lots of us struggle with striving during the holidays, but we can decide right now to show up and do what we can to leave others more in awe of God than we found them.

...you're the girl for the job. You bring LIGHT and life with you when you go - and that's even better than pie.

Jess Connolly, author of "You're the Girl for the Job"

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