

Advent Prayer:

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). Look around you for a sign of God's presence. When you find it, share it with someone. As soon as Jesus was born, visitors began to come. First it was the shepherds. Then the wise men. Then Simeon and Anna. Then even the soldiers of Herod were sent to find Him. Together these visitors represent the people of every nation, coming by every possible path and conveyance to see Christ. Through Jesus, He "visited" and "brought redemption" to us. He continues through Jesus and through us to dwell in our world today.

Questions:

As we anticipate the celebration of Christmas, let us look around us. Are those around us anticipating joy and happiness or loneliness and depression?

When people look at us, do they think of Jesus?

Have I "prepared the way" in the heart of a loved one or acquaintance for Jesus' coming?