

Parish Meeting Prayer

For December, 2019

Introduction

Leader “Prepare the way of the Lord” has been our Advent prayer. “Make straight the paths of the Lord” is a lifelong journey.

Opening Prayer

All Father of Good News, Jesus’ birth holds bold, clear challenges for us. As his disciples, help us to bring goodness and justice to our world, one step at a time. Bless our celebration of Jesus’ coming. He lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Word of God Matthew 11:2-11

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two’s or three’s. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. As a follower of Jesus, how can you bring goodness and justice into your daily life?
2. How can your family bring deeper meaning to your celebrations of Christmas?

Response (Taken from Matt. 11:2-11)

Side 1 “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Side 2 We believe Jesus is the promised one. We live our lives as he taught us.

Side 1 “The poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

Side 2 We can reach out not only to the economically poor, but also the spiritually poor in struggling to find their path to Jesus and his love.

Side 1 “He will prepare the way before you.”

Side 2 John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Now we do the same.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Jesus, who has come into our world to save us from darkness, bring light to our lives so easily discouraged by the materialistic, superficial celebrations of Christmas around us. Teach us how to appreciate the gift of your life in a way that deepens our celebrations. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
He sent his disciples to Jesus with the question,
“Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?”

Jesus said to them in reply,
“Go and tell John what you hear and see,
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off,
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,
A reed swayed by the wind?
Then what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
He will prepare your way before you.