



CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY

*The day is done, the night has come. . .
And so, in this Advent season of waiting and watching,
we prepare our souls to welcome you.*

— adapted from Hannah Heather

Welcome!

Whether you find yourself near or far from the ones you love this season, this liturgy is to help facilitate some meaningful reflection for you in welcoming the birth of Christ:

SCRIPTURE

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Scripture says that Mary, an unwed pregnant mother, and soon to be fiance-father, Joseph, traveled about 90 miles together to be accounted for in their hometown Bethlehem. While they were there, the baby named Jesus (also prophesied to be the Messiah), decided to make his low-key entrance into this world.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.... (Luke 2:27-28)

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the synagogue. At the synagogue there was a man of many years named Simeon who had been waiting for the Messiah his entire life. Although the shepherds *looked* for Jesus and the wise men *visited* Jesus, Simeon was the first person to **welcome** Jesus. In fact, historically he is known as the “God-Receiver”.

WELCOMING JESUS

To help you welcome Jesus in this season, take some time to consider Who it is you are welcoming by slowly reading through some of the names of Jesus found in Scripture below:

The True Vine
John 15:1

The Bread of Life
John 6:35, 48

Redeemer
Job 19:25

Immanuel
Isaiah 7:14

*The Resurrection
and the Life*
John 11:25-26

Man of Sorrows
Isaiah 53:3-6

Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9:8

*The Way
The Truth and the Life*
John 14:6

Alpha and Omega
Rev. 22:13

Wonderful Counselor
Isaiah 9:8

Light of the World
John 8:12

The Good Shepherd
John 10:11-15

Mighty God
Isaiah 9:8

Everlasting Father
Isaiah 9:8

REFLECTION

- *As you read through the list above, what name of Jesus do you want to welcome today and why?*
- *How would welcoming this aspect of Jesus impact your life and the world around you?*

CLOSING PRAYER

God, as we remember the Christmas story today, we participate in welcoming your son, Jesus, by saying:

Jesus I welcome you, _____ Amen.
(name of Jesus)

DAILY REMEMBRANCE

We are so glad you chose to enter into this space of commemorating Christ's birth. Consider taking a 3 x 5 card and writing down the name of Jesus you are welcoming as a visual reminder for you this season!