

Presence

Leader: God's Word is spoken in time and space.
All: Lord, give us listening hearts.
Leader: God's Word is always spoken in the now.
All: Lord, help us to be attentive
to the present moment.
Leader: God's Word became incarnate
that first Christmas,
and wishes to be born anew in us, daily.
All: Lord, nurture your incarnate Word
in our hearts this Advent.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 40:3 - 5a

A voice cries,
'Prepare in the wilderness a way for Yahweh.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of Yahweh shall be revealed
and all humankind shall see it.

Chant: *Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

Reflection

Loving you, of course
I am not at all interested in how much money
you are spending on Christmas gifts this year
but rather, in how much blood, sweat, and tears
you are shedding
to make Christ a vital part of your life

For you and I will never be able to erase
the fact that he came:
to touch lives - to break bread
to heal hurt - to forgive sins
to wash feet – to calm seas
to walk on water – to give us the Spirit
and to care immensely

Yes, to care enough
to be born in our Bethlehem
to live in our land, and weep over our cities
and die and rise again.

Poor, cluttered hearts
starving for the emptiness
that makes fullness possible
Prepare the way of the Lord.

It is so little that God ask of us.
Give some evidence that you want to change.
Wear lights in your hearts
instead of on your trees

*Adapted from Macrina Wiederkehr,
Seasons of Your Heart*

Prayer of the Faithful

- For a world, where injustice has been levelled, we pray to the Lord
- For those preparing for his coming, we pray to the Lord
- For a way made straight for Yahweh God in our hearts, we pray to the Lord ...

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
who chose, at Bethlehem, to meet us,
make us ready to lose and leave
all that makes us proud and sufficient

Be born again, not in a manger,
but in us this Christmas....

Make of our diocese, your Bethlehem
where God is personal
and all things and all people are made new. AMEN



Preparing our hearts for the Lord

Advent Prayer