

Come long expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy, love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.

Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there and spirited resolution to serve the Father and son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail Amen.

This is my prayer throughout the Advent Season in preparation for celebrating the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

This season provides a special time to focus on how his birth has impacted our lives. Many times we get lost in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season. We worry about all the things we must do and we don't allow ample time to give thanks to God and focus on the coming of the Lord.

Through ChristLife, I've learned no matter what challenges and what issues are going on in my life, I can find comfort in the Lord if I pray and honor his name. We can impact others by sharing our faith and our journey in Christ. Each of us has our own journey and through scripture and small group, I have truly learned the impact we can have on each other. Evangelization could be our greatest gift to someone. This season is the perfect time to introduce someone to Christ. Seek out those who may be suffering, forgive those who need to be forgiven, be a helping hand through acts of kindness.

This Christmas will be a little different for me. I lost a brother this year and have moved my Mother near me from her home in Louisiana. In many respects, we have known great sadness. But, rather than focus on the sadness in our personal lives, let us seek comfort in the Lord. With five days of Advent left, I have prayed and made the effort to focus on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

My prayer to you and your families is that you may find peace in yourselves and each other. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we have our own spiritual rebirth. In God's name, we pray Amen.