

**LEADER:** As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season,  
we would also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.

**PEOPLE:** **You came once for your people,  
O Lord, and you will come for us again.**

Though there was no room at the inn  
to receive you upon your first arrival,

**We would prepare you room**

**here in our hearts**

**and here in our home,**

**Lord Christ.**

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to mark  
the memory of your redemptive movement into  
our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees,  
Our festive carols, our sumptuous feasts—

**By these small tokens we affirm**

**that something amazing has happened  
in time and space—**

that God, on a particular night,  
in a particular place, so many years ago,  
was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights,  
our giving of gifts, our parties with friends—  
these have never been ends in themselves.

**They are but small ways in which we repeat  
that sounding joy first proclaimed by angels  
in the skies near Bethlehem.**

In view of such great tidings of love announced  
to us, and to all people, how can we not be moved  
to praise and celebration in this Christmas season?

**As we decorate our tree, and as we  
feast and laugh and sing together,  
we are rehearsing our coming joy!**

We are making ready to receive the one  
who has already, with open arms, received us!

**A LITURGY  
TO MARK THE  
START OF THE**

## **Christmas Season**

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AND THE ANGEL SAID TO  
THEM, "FEAR NOT, FOR  
BEHOLD, I BRING YOU  
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT  
JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL  
THE PEOPLE. FOR UNTO  
YOU IS BORN THIS DAY  
IN THE CITY OF DAVID A  
SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST  
THE LORD. AND THIS  
WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU:  
YOU WILL FIND A BABY  
WRAPPED IN SWADDLING  
CLOTHS AND LYING IN A  
MANGER."  
LUKE 2:10-12

**We would prepare you room  
here in our hearts  
and here in our home,  
Lord Christ.**

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,  
even as we long for your return.

**O Prince of Peace, our elder brother,  
return soon. We miss you so!**

**Amen.**