

Offering Invitations and Prayers for December 2009 based on the Lectionary Readings

These resources are written from the reading of scriptures from The Message Bible.

December 6—Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi's prophecies that John the Baptist will come to proclaim Jesus' arrival. But he also comes to refine the priests of Levi until they are fit to present offerings to God. Jesus came to wash us clean from our sin that we too might be fit to present our offerings to God. In this spirit, let us give.

O God, take these offerings, cleanse them of our unworthiness and make them fit for your will. Amen.

December 13—Third Sunday of Advent

Philippians 4 talks about giving your worries to God through prayers since everything comes together for good in God's wholeness. Because God is a God of abundance, we don't need the worry of scarcity. Let us give as if we believe this Good News.

God, thank you for Christ displacing our worry with the assurance of wholeness. Through these gifts, displace the worry of others in our community and through our missions. Amen.

December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced in the fact that they were able to share the Good News of Christ with one another. Through our giving to the ministries of this church, we too share in that proclamation of the gospel. The question is do we rejoice in that opportunity? Through our offering, may we express that joy to God and the community.

O God, your strength is beyond comprehension. Your mercy is beyond kindness. Your grace is greater than anything. Thank you for the gifts of your love and the gifts of money that we bring. Use it for your blessed work. Amen.

December 27—First Sunday After Christmas

Luke 2 describes the nightmare of every parent—a child lost, not where he was supposed to be. But when Mary asks Jesus why, he asks "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here dealing with the things of my Father?" The world asks us why we believe, why we serve, why we give. And whether they fully understand or not, we answer that we are dealing with the things of our Father. Let us give our gifts to God.

Dear God, we love and serve you and because we do, we give. Take these gifts and use them in Jesus' name. Amen.