JESUS'S BIRTH

Pray that our celebration of Christmas is a celebration of Christ's coming into the world; and that our giving and receiving of gifts is an expression of the love for one another which Jesus's taught us. Pray that we keep things simple with our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on what's important, Jesus's birth. Pray that Jesus will give us a heart that looks for His coming on a daily basis, where we are constantly seeking His face and seeking His presence. Pray that we will worship from deep within our hearts and that we will have an outpouring of love to those around us – show us how to respond to the poor, the oppressed, the neglected and the forgotten during this season; that we might be in better practice to do this in seasons to come. Pray for the 'gift' of understanding and tolerance of those who celebrate and worship differently than us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

PEACE AMOUNG US

Pray that Jesus will grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Pray for those whose hearts are battered by sorrow or broken relationships, for those whose lives know only conflict and confusion, for those whose bodies are tired and tested beyond their ability to endure this year. Pray that our Lord will release the joy in us that's been crushed by pride, wrong priorities or life events. Pray that God will show us again the beauty of that holy night so many centuries ago. Pray that during this season of Advent that we are drawn closer to you as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Savior. Pray that God will bring light into our darkness. Pray that Jesus will help us to stay focused on Him, this Advent season and always.

Psalm 122:6-9 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels. For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, Peace be within you. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.

SAFETY FOR THE SEASON

Pray for safe travel for families who are gathering in celebration of this Holy Season. Pray that we might listen to the promptings from the Holy Spirit, just as Mary and Joseph did, to ensure the safest routes and trust in God's timing. Pray for those traveling, not to celebrate, but to preserve their lives, as they try to escape a home of violence and persecution. Pray for safety for those who have taken an oath to serve and protect us. Pray that they might show the love of Jesus as they serve others and return safely to their families when their job is done.

Psalm 72:4 May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.

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