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A READING TO MARK THE START OF THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season,
May we also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.
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
May we also prepare you room 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 feast
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 and 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 angles 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!
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

Liturgy from *Every Moment Holy*

