

**Lord,**

**Thank you for calling us into Advent, a season of remembering your coming.  
It is far too easy to get caught up in the snowy illustrations, so far from  
Bethlehem.**

**The carols blaring from the store speakers, leaving out the  
traditional joyful hymns in favor of "Santa baby".**

**To get caught up in the twinkle of Christmas lights, while forgetting the  
Christmas star.**

**Lord, forgive us when we forget the awe of your coming so long ago, and  
only dimly remember the whole point was when you come again  
triumphantly. That the season of Advent is a current reminder to anticipate.**

**While the world seems jolly in our modern culture, we celebrate those gifts.  
It is good and a wonderful thing to enjoy the lights and carols and festivities.**

**But let us remember too the lonely. Who wish for a family to gather with.  
The homeless, who wish for warm walls of protection.**

**The poor, who wish for a gift to give their child, or money to pay for heat.**

**The suffering, who wish for peace in their land.**

**The depressed, who long for a lightened spirit.**

**Our country, whose division seems amplified, as we forget what we have in  
common.**

**Let us give thanks with renewed gratitude, humbled by our present gifts.  
With renewed prayers for those who have less.**

**With passionate prayers for those who know you not, and those who turn  
from you.**

**Let us love well and pray for those who have fallen for leis that steal their  
hearts from you this Christmas, draw them close to you Lord.**

**Oh, the joy of Christmas in our hearts is a valuable thing, a great treasure.  
Because we celebrate the greatest gift of all; God willing to sacrifice all of his  
comforts to be born in the lowliest of circumstances.**

**To remind us that the least matter, and that he empathizes with our  
humanity.**

**Christmas ...thank you so much for this opportunity to come humbly before  
you. Again. Show us the true marvel of the season as we celebrate you.**

**Thank you for understanding our distractions as we determine to carve out  
time for you...and once again treasure your love for us.**

**Bless YOU, Lord, and thank you for Christmas.**

**In Jesus PRECIOUS name,  
Amen.**