

Christmas Prayer Time:

By Lowell Snow – www.lowellsnow.com

“Please bow your head and close your eyes.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Listen to these words from the Christmas story:

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16 [NKJV]

[wait 2 seconds]

“With your eyes still closed, listen to the verse again and try to imagine yourself as one of the shepherds hurrying across the countryside to see the baby Jesus:

And they came with **haste** and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

[wait 1 seconds]

“Keep in mind that you’ve just had an experience that nobody else in the history of mankind had ever had. You’ve heard angels sing.

[wait 2 seconds]

And they came with haste and **found** Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

“With your eyes still closed; try to imagine your feelings as you find the stable and then see the baby. Gaze upon the child.

[wait 2 seconds]

“The Messiah.

[wait 2 seconds]

“The Savior.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Hope has come.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Hope – in the face of a newborn baby.

[wait 2 seconds]

“In the presence of that child; what would you pray? What would you say to the Heavenly Father who sent his perfect son into this dark world? Say it now, in silent prayer.

[wait 10 seconds]

“It’s surprising that the Father announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds. They were often dirty and smelly and most folks looked down on them with pity.

[wait 1 seconds]

“It’s just as surprising that the Father sent Jesus to you – a dirty, smelly, sinner. In the presence of His perfect Son – are there some things in your life that you need to apologize to God for?

[wait 2 seconds]

“We do all kinds of things that are dirty and smelly to God. It may be something you’ve said or done. It might be a relationship or even an attitude you have that is not worthy of the perfect, beautiful, Son of God.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Pray silently and honestly now and apologize to God for anything in your life that is not pleasing to Him.

[wait 10 seconds]

“The Bible says that Jesus didn’t come to condemn you for your sins, but to save you from your sins. Thank God now for His gift of forgiveness.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Thank Him for your salvation.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Sadly, our culture has fallen into a time of great doubt and much rebellion against God. Pray silently now that the true message of Christmas will be heard in our land.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Pray that God will help you stand strong in your faith.

[wait 2 seconds]

“Pray that He will give you opportunities to share the true message of Christmas.

[wait 5 seconds]

“The angels sang of peace on Earth. Around the world, even in the most terrible of situations, followers of Jesus testify of the ‘peace’ that comes from knowing Him. Pray silently now and thank Him for bringing you that personal peace that passes all understanding.

[wait 3 seconds]

“The Biblical revelation also says that Christ will return again and bring world peace. With your eyes still closed, listen to the last words of Jesus from the last verses of the Bible:

“Surely I am coming quickly.”

“Now listen to the prayer response of the Apostle John:

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus! [Rev 22:20 NKJV]

[wait 2 seconds]

“Let’s join the apostle John in that prayer. Pray it silently as I pray it out loud:

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

[wait 1 seconds]

“Just as the shepherds had prayed and yearned all their lives for the coming Messiah, so we pray and yearn for His return. This time would you pray that simple prayer with me out loud?

“Even so - come, Lord Jesus!

[wait 2 seconds]

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” [Rev 22:21 NKJV]

Instructions for guiding the prayer time:

As printed, the prayer time takes about six minutes.

This prayer time could be used during a worship service, Sunday School class or for a family Christmas celebration.

As you lead the prayer time - [Don't read the instructions in brackets out loud]

Emphasize the words in **bold**.

If this is the first time you've led a guided prayer time; you might read over sections 1 and 3 in my Prayer Guide book. If possible; listen to me lead a guided prayer time on my web site, DVD, or CD.

The first time you practice reading it; try to experience the prayer time the way you want those you're leading to experience it.

Print it the way you're going to use it. Don't practice with one sheet and then lead it from a different format. You'll get lost. You want every line to be printed exactly the same as when you practiced it.

Practice reading it out loud several times so you can become familiar with the [instructions]. Focus on reading the text clearly. Include the times of silent prayer so you can get used to counting the seconds silently in your mind.

Feel free to copy it into your word processor and edit it however you want. It is covered by copyright only to the extent that I ask you to include my name and web address so others can be blessed by the Prayer Guide ministry.

If you're leading a worship service; you might ask for instrumental music to be played very softly in the background. This background music should not have a recognizable melody. Some musicians can play beautiful chord progressions that work well. Others will find it easier to play the chords of an unfamiliar hymn or song. The prayer time should come at the heart of worship with at least one song before it and after. Try to eliminate 'dead time' before and after the prayer time.

For more help; go to the 'Free helps for prayer leaders' at www.lowellsnow.com or see Appendix 2 in the back of the Prayer Guide book.

Prayer time outline:

[Scriptural meditation]

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16 NKJV

[Biblical Visualization]

Shepherds seeing Jesus

[Prayer by suggestion]

Praise for the child Jesus

Confession

Revival in our land

His Kingdom come

[Benediction]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Rev 22:21 NKJV