

TRUE VINE TIMES

An Advent Prayer for The Lord to Come

Scott and Simone Moore

Scott and Simone Moore have been a part of our CCAM church family for the past couple of years. They live in the Williamsville area. Scott works for the American Red Cross, and Simone works for a company involved with import & export logistics.

Simone is originally from Brazil. She and Scott were married in 2006. Simone has family in Brazil and misses her dad and siblings. She had planned a trip to visit them last April but unfortunately, the pandemic prevented that from happening. They have a dog who is dearly loved, named Cinnamon. Scott and Simone attended our annual Beaver Camp retreat for the first time this past year and really enjoyed it. We are so happy they walked into our doors and into our hearts.

We look forward to our journey together at CCAM.



~Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart"

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Here is a sample prayer to use during the season to focus your heart and mind for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.

As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.

Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.

Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.

Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.

In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.

Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.

Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

Put Jesus First this Christmas Season

~ By Debbie McDaniel

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” - [Luke 2:7](#)

No room for them. No vacancy. No place. Words that still seem to hang close, even today. In a world that seeks to crowd Jesus out, where busyness abounds, and hearts are stirred to focus on other things, it can be hard sometimes to choose to keep Him first. It's all too easy to get caught up in the whole hurried dash of the holidays, and to give our attention to what seems more urgent. Our focus gets blurred; and the most important gets pushed aside. It takes an active and daily choice to put Christ first, especially in a culture that says you're too busy to focus there. Or that life is too full. And there's no more room. May God help us to choose wisely, what voices we listen to, and where we give our attention today. He is the One who brings true meaning to Christmas. He is the One who brings real peace in this all-too-often hectic season. He is the only One worthy of our time and attention as we slow down the maddening rush around our lives. We can know all of this in our heads, but may He help us to really believe it in our hearts... and choose to live it out this season.



Please plan to gather remotely for a special Christmas Eve Service. Together, with grateful hearts, we will celebrate the birth of Christ. Service will start at 7pm.

Casting Crowns - Make Room (Official Music Video) ft. Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYHpJnfy2lQ>

Special thanks to Nancy Miller and Esther Mast for the beautiful Christmas decorations at the church.

