

November 30, 2022

Get Ready!

1 Samuel 1:21 - 2:10

For this child I have prayed, and the Lord has granted the desires of my heart. 1 Samuel 1:27

Twenty days ago on November 10 we celebrated my son Grant's fifth birthday. As some know, we are an adoptive family. Much like Advent, our season of preparation for Grant's arrival five years ago was filled with great hope, joy, love, and anticipation.

For a dozen years or more, before Grant arrived, I frequently leaned on this passage of scripture detailing the story of Hannah and Samuel, and especially on 1 Samuel 1:27. When Grant joined our family, at two days old, a great peace came to my heart.

And, oh the joy – deep, wondrous joy – that Grant has brought to me and my entire family!

As we approach Christmas, I wonder how we are all preparing for the arrival of the Christ-child. Are we praying for hope, peace, love, and joy? Are we truly anticipating with excitement the arrival of the Messiah?

Unlike preparations for a new baby in our lives, we do not have a baby shower to plan, a crib to assemble, diapers to gather, or gender reveal parties to attend. However, there is still much to do. We have to get ourselves ready for the celebration and coming of the Prince of Peace!

I pray you have entered into Advent with a heart, mind, and spirit ready to receive the hope, peace, love, and joy of Jesus, our Savior. In the midst of trimming the Christmas tree, baking cookies, wrapping presents, and singing carols, find some time to pray and ponder the arrival of this baby.

There is Good News to share with the world and a celebration coming in just a few weeks. Are we ready to welcome the incredible gift we are about to receive, the Son of God, the word made flesh?

Prayer: *Almighty God, as Hannah said, we know “There is none holy like [you], there is none besides you, and there is no rock like [you].” This Advent season, grant us a sense of great wonder like young children awaiting Christmas morning. Thank you for giving your Son to our world, and it is in His name we pray, Amen.*

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