Advent God, in the hurry of getting ready for Christmas, help us to be quiet and not miss the real beauty and truth of the season. Let us not misunderstand you, even though we often feel and ask like John the Baptist.

Enable us to see beyond the harsh reality and be touched by your promise of new life and lasting hope. Let us never give up, but discover the times of waiting and longing as times in which we can grow and bring about something new…

Let us open our hearts and homes to those who seek safety, happiness, love and joy. And in them let us see you.

Give peace and strength to those who are lonely or distressed or angry.

Grant rest and renewal to those who are tired.

Touch with healing all bodies that are sick, minds that are disturbed, hearts that ache.

Make whole the relationships that have been broken, and give new friendships where life is barren and empty.

Create your beautiful kingdom within us, and help us to share it with others.

Teach us God, how to live in this time.

Teach us to be still and touch the hope of these days.

Teach us to move on with this hope deep in our hearts.

Teach us to be imaginative with all our gifts, that they may bless the world, and, blessing the world, bless us as well.

Let our children discover a sense of wonder that will never leave them, and enable those of us who are older to rediscover a feeling for mystery during this special season of the year.

Make us aware of your presence in little things – a cup of tea, a flickering candle, snow flakes and smiles…. that we may see light and not darkness, life and not death.

Give a purpose to our lives, and protect us and guide us, when we walk your way.

Wrap us in your love and light when we journey through Advent and prepare to celebrate your coming.

And let us respond to your coming by giving to others what you have given us:

joy, peace, light and happiness. Amen.