

Monday, December 4

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6 (The Living Bible)

Text for Today: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the Government shall be upon his shoulder. These will be his royal titles – Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.*

Blessing is to be found in working within the will of God and knowing that you do so. Wealth and cleverness were nothing to God. No one is too unimportant to be his friend. With grateful hearts and joyful spirits we prepare to celebrate the coming of your son. We praise and thank you that in him we discover love. We pray for understanding of such love and for determination to let love rule in our hearts forever.

Prayer: Blessed are you, O God, our Maker, that you have given us the miracle of Bethlehem, a sign of peace and a promise of love. Blessed are you who has given us in Mary, the mother, a model of motherhood, a model of faith. May we learn from her the qualities of true humility, openness, awe and obedience that made her blessed. May this sacred season bring us close to the realities of the first Christmas. May we feel the loneliness that many experience at Christmas, bereavements that stir hurting memories for many among us, the emptiness known to travelers who spend the season far from home, the uneasiness that many feel wondering what the season can mean for them. We would not hide from these feelings behind the festivities of our celebrating while we rejoice in our life together; keep us sensitive to all for whom this is a painful time. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mary Boyle

