

John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah by helping the people to realign their lives.

As we gather expectantly in God's presence, let us pray.

The congregational response, as printed in to-day's bulletin:
Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of cleansing and liberating power, give us the courage and perception to see ourselves as we really are, and repent of our sin; may the whole Church be cleansed and renewed. (pause) Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for the world's leaders and all in authority, that they may lead and govern wisely and honestly, without corruption and for the common good. (pause) Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of love and faithfulness, may every family be surrounded and upheld by your presence, the conflicts healed and needs provided for, and every act of kindness blessed. (pause) Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of wholeness, bring your reassurance and healing, your hope and patience to all who are suffering in any way. (remembering Liz, Connie, Bonnie, ...) Bring freedom to all imprisoned by hate or guilt, and a change of heart to all who need to forgive. (pause) Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of unending life, bring life in its fullness to us here, and to those who have completed their time on earth. May they know the freedom and joy of your heaven. (pause) Come, O come, Emmanuel: **come and live in us.**

God of warmth and brightness, we praise you for all our many blessings, and above all for coming to save us and set us free.

God of Comfort, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**