

*December 2017*

**From the Desk of Rev. Chuck**

Unity Church of Bakersfield

1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301

[www.ucob.org](http://www.ucob.org)

Church: 661-327-8614

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Dear Friends,

As many of you know, my mother passed last month on November 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be my first Christmas without hearing her voice over the phone. However, the spirit of who she was speaks loud and clear. I had her for 69 of her 89 years here on this earthly plane.

As we approach the Advent season and then the joyous celebration of Christmas I would ask that we remember those who have passed as living spirits of light and love that remind us of what we are truly celebrating: The Presence of God.

The loved ones who have passed are in the spiritual presence of God, what do you say we take time to honor them and this sacred season by dedicating ourselves to living in the presence of God. To take time for inner reflection and contemplation as we prepare our hearts and minds for the spiritual rebirth—the rebirth of the awareness of our own inner Christ nature.

Below are prayers from Unity that I have used over the years to help me create the faith, peace, love, and joy that are the gifts we all can receive from God during this holiday season.

**Dear God,**

Today I make a commitment to consciously live in Your presence. By setting this intention, I am open to greater spiritual unfoldment.

I focus on living more fully in Your presence. Quiet moments of communion with You enable me to step away from the clamor and busyness of the season and remain positive and steadfast in my desire to be in Your presence.

I have faith in the presence of Your Spirit within. I nurture that faith with prayer, and as I do, it grows stronger day by day. With great expectation, I know my faith in You will bring great fulfillment and well-being.

**Dear God,**

As I light this candle I am reminded of what

Jesus told the people, “Let your light shine!” The light of Your presence in me is the center of my peace and calmness.

I open my heart to peace now—to the peace of Your presence in all I do and say. I know that I have the power to be a positive influence as I let each thought, word, and action be a blessing of peace.

Like the flame from my candle, I make a commitment to radiate a spirit of love and peace to everyone I see today.

**Dear God,**

Today I commitment myself to being a harbinger of love. Living in Your presence I invite Your love to shine forth through me and into the world around me.

I choose to remember family and friends with kindness and compassion. I express love to those who want someone to listen to them. I express love by seeing another’s need and taking action to help. I express love by holding all in prayer for the highest and best for all concerned.

As I stand in Your presence, I give thanks for Your love that is active everywhere and at all times.

**Dear God,**

As I open my heart and mind to You, I am immersed in the presence of pure love and joy. I let Your joy radiate from me to others through smiles and laughter, through the tangible presents I give as well as through the intangible gifts of kindness, love, and peace.

As I become more aware of Your presence and the Christ qualities with me during this time before Christmas, I look forward to rich opportunities to experience true joy. Sharing the gifts of Your presence, I am strengthen with faith, nourished with Your love, and enriched with a great sense of peace.

Because I have committed to living in Your presence, I realize that all my activities are sacred and that each of them radiates a quiet joy to all those around me. Thank you, God!

From our house to yours, Merry Christmas!