

I am Jenny Roper, a mother of 3 wonderful children.

Advent is a time of preparation, and although we prepare throughout our lives for different reasons, I will share my time of preparation and expectations of the birth of a child.

It was a life changing event and the true presence of God in my life the moment I heard the heart beat of my unborn child inside of me. How can Bill (my husband) and I alone be able to conceive a life I wondered? How can I not give God the praise He deserves, and the acknowledgment of His existence.

The miracle of life was taking place in my womb, just like Mary, I can only say Lord, thanks for you have trusted in me a new life.

The anticipation to this birth was so full of emotions, a boy, a girl, baby's health, baby's looks. The changes in my body, the changes in me, the future of this new baby, there was so much to consider. I prepared by reading books, talking to friends and family, and just like Elizabeth was to Mary, the support from expectant mother to expectant mother.

Pregnancy is also a time to give way to the unknown, when will the birth be, how will it be, how long will it last until the baby is in my arms. I think of Mary and how she must have prepared as well. She probably had a lovely nursery, maybe a crib handcrafted by Joseph, blankets she knitted, yet, she had to leave it all and receive her baby in the most unexpected way she have never imagined. Mary you are the example of humbleness, faithfulness and absolute obedience that all of us mothers look up to.

And when this baby finally arrived, the emotions continued to emerge, the overwhelming sense of protecting this little one, the unconditional love, joy and happiness. The journey was long, I was extremely tired, in pain, yet, nothing really matter except, the beginning of a new life, a life that Bill and I helped create. Thanks to God for His favor on us, grateful for the people that were helping us, and so willing to prepare for a life of parenting. Our first child is Mathew who is now 13 years old.

Then we were blessed with a second pregnancy and a beautiful second son, David who is now 9 years old. And a third time, we happily received a third son to our family, Alexander who is five years old now.

As a final thought, in this special time of Advent, I continue to reflect on my time of preparation, and wish for each of you to do the same. I am grateful for the lives that have began in me, and strive to share God's message to them as he becomes alive in each of our lives individually.