

Sunday 27 November 2022 - Advent 1 *Making Advent Wreaths*

Centring and Land Acknowledgment

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.

Feel the ground beneath your feet.

Become aware of your body and how you are sitting;
open yourself a little more to your breathing.

Let your in-breath help you to become more aware of the sacred presence in you.

Let your out-breath help you to trust in the sacred presence around you.

Worship helps us to become aware that all life is sacred.

We acknowledge that we live in the St. Lawrence Valley, the sacred and
ancestral home of the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk" peoples, as well as
those of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the neighbouring Huron-Wendat,
Anishinaabeg, and Abenaki peoples.

It is also has become the home of traders and settlers, refugees and immigrants,
not to forget the multitude of plants and animals, waters and soil that have lived here.

We acknowledge that the wisdom, traditions, cultures and languages of many
who have called this place "Home" have not been honoured, especially the first
peoples of this land and so we join our hearts and minds as one and say:

Call to Worship

by Josie Smith, from Candles & Conifers
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Holy One, by your presence, light up the past
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.

Light up the present
that we might live in it with love.

Light up the future
that we might prepare for it in hope.

As we watch and wait and pray,
may we always be ready to encounter the sacred
who is already and always with us.

Song

Advent Is A Time Of Waiting (Tune VU345) *by Josie Smith, from Candles & Conifers*
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Advent is a time of waiting for the life that is to be.

When the Christ, by prophets promised, sits enthroned on Mary's knee,
Human in the way that we are; come to earth for you and me.

Choirs of angels are rehearsing, 'Glory to our God on high.'
Shepherds in the field are watching where their bleating charges lie.
Distant magi, waiting, restless, scan the dark mysterious sky.

Hope is all our theme for Advent, hope for all the human race.
All our hope on God is founded, God who shows a human face.
God who made the Earth and planets now appears in time and space.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Candle is lit

God, Star Kindler, kindle a flame of hope within us
to light our path in days of darkness. Kindle A Flame To Lighten The Dark **VU19**

God, Sun Warmer, warm us with hopefulness
to melt the frozen hand of fear. Kindle A Flame To Lighten The Dark **VU19**

God, Moon Burnisher, burnish the shield of faith
that we may seek justice and live in hope. Kindle A Flame To Lighten The Dark **VU19**

Advent Prayer

Eternal God,
in the long ago when the earth was flat and heaven was above the clouds,
and disease was caused by demons, your son was born to lighten our darkness.

We, now, after the enlightenment, are in bondage to different limitations.

We doubt what we cannot prove, we ignore what we cannot see,
and finding little room for faith, we confess,

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

We admit ourselves to be both infected and affected by the spirit of our times.

Behind talk of world peace we hear the machinery of war;

beneath talk of global equality we detect the posturing the powerful;

beside talk of your church being renewed,

we recognize the bondage to failed patterns of the past.

Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by darkness, and must confess,

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Ah, God, who will save us?

Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience, not the key to the future.

Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, never to recognize the dove.

It is with little pride we must confess,

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

As Christmas approaches, give us a share of that divine naiveté enjoyed by Elizabeth
and Zachariah, Mary and Joseph and unnamed country folk who encountered angels
and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them.

Song

All Earth Is Waiting **VU5**

Scripture

Isaiah 2.1-5 *Common English Bible Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible*

This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it.

3 Many nations will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God's paths."

Instruction will come from Zion; the Lord's word from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

5 Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the Lord's light.

Another Voice

Brene Brown (American professor, lecturer, author and podcast host)

"Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy—the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light."

Song

The Day Of The Lord

The desert shall spring to life, the hills shall rejoice
The lame of the earth shall leap, the dumb shall find voice.
The lamb with the lion shall lie and the last shall be first;
And nations for war no more shall study or thirst.

Reflection

Song

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **VU2**

Offering Time

So much of faith is waiting,
like a pregnant woman waiting in hope,
like a people under siege, holding out till relief comes,
like the soul lost in the darkness, unable to see even a glimmer of light
yet stumbling through the night because somewhere out ahead, day will surely break.
God is with us in our waiting.

Offering Prayer

Sacred Womb of promise,
you ask us to value our souls, our minds and our bodies
and so we ask your blessing on us;
you ask us to value our work, our rest and our play
and so we seek your blessing on all that we do and say;
you ask us to value the earth, sea and sky
and so we acknowledge your blessing in the very fabric of creation.
Bless us Holy One, that together with you we may be bearers of your light.

Making our Advent Wreaths

Closing Responses

by the Iona Community Wild Goose Resource Group

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God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb.

**Give us your benediction,
your good word for our souls,
that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.**

Sung Blessing

written by Rev. Darryl Macdonald to the tune Cradle Song VU69

The love of Christ Jesus enfold you this day;
The Spirit to guide you, your friend on the way;
God's wisdom to fill you, your heart will take flight;
A world blessed and sacred in Advent's true Light.