



## **Advent in the time of Truth and Reconciliation**

### Candle Lighting Liturgy

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### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Hope**

**Leader:** Advent is the season of preparation.

**All:** *We have work to do.*

**Leader:** As we light a candle on our Advent wreath, we have joined with many communities, exclaiming we are putting into action our preparation. (Light candle)

**All:** *We are not waiting passively. We are not hoping passively. We hope for a good life for our descendent as did our ancestors, this hope helps us walk towards justice.*

**Leader:** We seek to become hope.

**All:** *The kind of hope that uplifts, the kind of hope that inspires each other, the kind of hope that acknowledges our responsibility to care for all of creation, and all people in every stratum of society.*

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### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Peace**

**Leader:** Advent is the season of preparation.

**All:** *We have work to do.*

**Leader:** As we light these candles on our Advent wreath, we have joined with many communities, exclaiming we are putting into action our preparation. (Light first candle)

**All:** *We are not waiting passively. We are not silencing, and we will not keep silent.*

**Leader:** We seek to become hope. (Lights second candle) We seek to become peace. Peace is not a quiet whisper but a loud drum song. We sing this song with all our hearts.

**All:** *The kind of peace that uplifts, the kind of peace that inspires healing, the kind of peace that acknowledges our responsibility to care for all of creation, and all people in every stratum of society.*

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### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Joy**

**Leader:** Advent is the season of preparation. (Lights first candle)

**All:** *We have work to do.*

**Leader:** As we light these candles on our Advent wreath, we have joined with many communities, exclaiming we are putting into action our preparation. (Lights second candle)

**All:** *We are not waiting passively. We choose joy with every action, even when we cannot find happiness. We choose to weep deeply, and to laugh deeply with all our relations.*

**Leader:** We seek to become hope. We seek to become peace. We seek to become joy. (Lights third candle)

**All:** *The kind of joy that gives us meaning and purpose, the kind of joy that heals, the kind of joy that dances in delight for all of creation, and with all people in every stratum of society.*

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### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Love**

**Leader:** Advent is the season of preparation. (Lights first candle)

**All:** *We have work to do.*

**Leader:** As we light these candles on our Advent wreath, we have joined with many communities (Lights second candle)

**All:** *We exclaim we are putting into action our preparation.*

**Leader:** We are not waiting passively. (Lights third candle)

**All:** *We say and show love with every fiber of our being.*

**Leader:** We seek to become hope. We seek to become peace. We seek to become joy. We seek to become love. (Lights fourth candle.)

**All:** *The kind of love that needs the diversity Creator created, the kind of love that blankets us on our healing journeys, the kind of love that acknowledges its dependence on and its steward relationship to all of creation, and all people in every stratum of society.*

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## **Lighting the Advent Wreath: The Way Maker**

**Leader:** Advent is the season of preparation. The Advent season has ended. (Light the first candle)

**All:** *The Christmas season has arrived.*

**Leader:** When Mary was pregnant, she and Joseph went to Joseph's family's home in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph made the 110-kilometer trip. Mary and Joseph couldn't travel as fast as everyone else traveling because Mary's growing womb made her travel slower. So, by the time Mary and Joseph arrived, the town was full of Joseph's extended families and people he grew up with. There wasn't a private room available, no guest rooms, no hotel rooms. There were only Joseph's family's living rooms. In those days, the living rooms were shared with any animals – sheep, goats, pigs. People often kept animals in the house, especially at night to give them extra warmth. It was kept very clean because of the law. The animals were dependent on the family and the family on them. (Lights second candle)

**All:** *In the place where the animals slept, beside the room where the funny Uncles and cousins waited anxiously, and surrounded by many worried, hands-on, and we-got-this Aunties, Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of Creator: The Way Maker.*

**Leader:** As the new day began, in the hills and fields outside Bethlehem, suddenly an angel appeared before the shepherds who had kept over their sheep by night. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, 'Don't be afraid. I have good news for everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born for you. You will find the baby lying in a manger.' Then many more angels appeared, lighting up the sky. The shepherds heard them praising God singing: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone on

earth.’ The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph. The baby Jesus was lying in a manger as they had been told. (Lights third candle)

**All:** *When the shepherds saw the family, they told their story. Everyone was astonished. Then the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising Creator for sending the Way-Maker.*

**Leader:** When Jesus was born, Creator placed a sign in the sky. Wise Elders in faraway countries saw the sign and guessed what it meant: a new star would appear when a great leader was born. One was a kindly old gentleman with glowing dark skin, a kind smile and jet-black eyes, another was a bit of a jokester. His eyes completely closed when we smiled. He kept asking, “Are you sure it’s that star?” even though he knew the answer. The last one was an Indigenous Grandmother; she was the strongest of them all and often saw the many roads her descendants would travel. That pain was her power. They had found each other on the road to Emmaus about 10 miles out of Bethlehem, then set out to follow the star, find the new leader, and bring gifts. Having followed the star towards Jerusalem, the Elders began to ask people: ‘Where is the child who is born to be leader of the Jews?’ Herod, the king of Jerusalem, heard and became dangerously jealous to think that someone might be going to take his place as king. Herod sent for the Elders. He told them to go on following the star until they had found the baby king. He said: ‘When you have found him, let me know where he is, so that I can go and worship him.’ Herod was insecure and deliberately planned to kill anyone who threatened his leadership, even a newborn baby. The Elders left Herod and followed the star towards Bethlehem. It seemed to stop and shine directly down upon the place where Jesus was. The Elders entered and found Jesus with Mary; they acknowledged Jesus as a great leader and gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to bless his life. (Lights the fourth candle)

**All:** *The Wise Elders were warned in a dream, by Creator, not to go back to Herod. So, they returned home to their countries by a different way.*

**Leader:** Soon after the Wise Elders had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take your family and escape to Egypt, for Herod plans to kill your child.” Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. When Herod realized the Elders weren’t coming back, he implemented his back-up plan. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger. After living as refugees in a foreign land for some years, King Herod died. An angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. “Get up,” the angel said, “and take your family and go to Galilee.” Joseph, Mary, and Jesus intended to go back to the land of Israel. But when they heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, they decided it wasn’t safe yet, so they settled in a city called Nazareth. (Lights Christ candle.)

**All:** *We celebrate The Way Maker who is Creator with All of Us Creations. We exclaim we are putting into action our preparation. We are not waiting passively. We seek to*

*become hope. We seek to become peace. We seek to become joy. We seek to become love. We have work to do.*

*Amen.*