Advent 2010 - Looking for the Good News

GATHERING



ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

And when we learn to read
the landscape of our fears,
and when we come to know
the terrain of every sorrow,
then will we turn
our fences into bridges
and our borders
into paths of peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

Days pass and the years vanish and we walk sightless among miracles.

Voice 1:

In faith we ask the Holy One,

Fill our eyes with seeing

and our minds with knowing.

Voice 2:

In hope we cry out to God,
 let there be moments
 when your presence, like lightning,
 illumines the darkness in which we

Leader:

walk.

And we, though clay,

when touched by God,

will reach out for holiness

and exclaim in wonder,

All:

How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it!

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

COMMON CONFESSION

Leader: God of Promise, we come before you

in fear and doubt.

People: Every day we come face to face

with our limits and our failures.

Leader: We are blinded by greed, lust and

selfishness.

People: We blink before the frightful stare of our

frailty.

Leader: We can not see the Good News.

All: Forgive us for our willful blindness to

your grace.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader:

The Advent of Christ opens the eyes of our

hearts

to God's promise of forgiveness and

compassion.

All:

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

All: 0 Holy One, we come today

to claim our relationship with you.

We pray for the commitment to grow together,

sharing the gifts you give us with others

here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,

and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline

to nurture our relationship with you;

to care for every part of your creation;

to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in

need;

to work to end all war, and violence, and discord; and to respond joyfully when you call, freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: As we take our worship beyond these walls,

let the landscape of our fears

and the terrain of our sorrow

become the ground of healing for the world.

Casting your lot with Christ,

turn your fences into bridges,

and let your borders be paths of peace.

All: Amen.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Reflection and Benediction: Jan Richardson, Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas, Pilgrim Press, page 47. Used with permission from Jan Richardson at www.janrichardson.com

Call to Worship: Adapted from Rachel Naomi Remen, Quoted in *inward/outward*, June 22, 2006