

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,
illuminates the darkness in which we
walk.

Leader: 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

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