

**The First Week of Advent
Jesus, Our Hope and Center**

+ GATHERING +

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: O King of Glory,

C: We make our hearts ready for you to come in.

P: Through the doors of our heart, though they are made of only the simplest wood,

C: O King of Glory, we make our hearts ready for you to come in.

P: We open these doors now, fully and completely, with all of our will and all of our strength. With all of our uncertainty and all of our weakness we pray,

C: come dwell among us and be our peace today.

GREETING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the dearth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

SILENCE

A brief or extended period of silence is held.

+ WORD +

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

After one candle is lit, the presider prays:

P: God of hope, who is our refuge and strength, be the center, the focus, of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

C: Amen.

PSALM 90 (spoken responsively, lector/**congregation**)

- ¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
- ²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**
- ³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O chil- | dren of earth."
- ⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;**
- ⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- ⁶**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
- ⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
- ⁸**Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**
- ⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
- ¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**
- ¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
- ¹²**So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**
- ¹³Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?
Be gracious | to your servants.
- ¹⁴**Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.**
- ¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us
and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.
- ¹⁶**Show your ser- | vants your works,
and your splendor | to their children.**
- ¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork.

+ PRAYER +

INVITATION TO PRAYER

P: In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

During this time of prayer, those assembled are invited to visit one or a few prayer stations. The stations are not sequential. To call all to return to their places, we will sing the following hymn five times.

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Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. In your mercy receive our prayers, and by your power hasten the day when peace and justice kiss and steadfast love and faithfulness meet for the sake of the world you love.

C: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

SILENCE

BLESSING

A blessing from Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson is shared, and all respond:

C: Amen.

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