



An Advent Litany for the Generations

Leader: Creator God, each year we begin the Advent Journey...the Journey to Joy, the one that causes us to pause and look up at the stars, in search of THE STAR.

People: Each year we celebrate the birth of children in our church family (name them); each year we anticipate the birth of Jesus, the Christ child. To you, the children of this church family, we offer our legacy of faith, nurtured, encouraged, and informed by the generations that came before.

Leader: Wondrous God, we give you thanks for this season of waiting, a season of looking back, rejoicing in the moment, and of anticipating the future. We look back with the help of our elders, whose stories make us rich in tradition. Children and grown-ups, remember to ask for their stories, and you will be blessed!

People: We are a church of the ages: from birth age to old age and all ages in between, each of us equipped with unique hands and hearts and voices, which together do God's work in the world. At Christmas time there is only one age to be - explorers searching the sky for THE STAR, silently and in unison, in anticipation of the coming of our Lord.

Leader: Lord, prepare us for Advent. Where there is noise and conflict, bring quiet and resolution. Where there is hunger, set us to preparing a feast. Where there is darkness and loss, bring light and comfort, hands to hold and arms to embrace. Where there is illness, bring your healing power and presence and a sense of humor for good measure.

People: Remind us of the circumstances of Christ's birth...the stable, the manger, the inn bustling above, unaware of the miracle taking place below with only the animals and angels as witnesses. Today Jesus might be considered a child at risk. Instead, he was a child of Joy, equipped with all he would need for the journey of his life, and able to equip us for our life's journey.

Leader: Loving God, grant us the wisdom to simplify our holiday preparations so we might use our energy to attend to our relationships. May we be present to those who are near, communicating with those who are far from us, and praying for those we do not know. Hush the chaos of our minds. Grant us vivid memories of those we are missing this Christmas season, and the courage to tell their stories to the generations.

All: Hold hands, young and old, for the journey can be bumpy and the waiting can be long. In God's time, age doesn't matter. As we light the candles of Advent, we act as one body, the body of Christ whose coming we celebrate. AMEN.