

# Christmas Eve

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## LITANY OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: For unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

**All: We are overwhelmed with joy!**

One: God brings us hope in the Christ child!

**All: We celebrate the birth of love!**

*(All five candles are lit)*

One: Tonight, we light all five candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and today's candle, the Christ candle. All five together represent God's constant and continuing flame of love in the world. Let us worship confident that, like these candles, God's presence is with us.

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, tonight is about celebration, inclusion and extravagant love. But that expansive love is difficult for us to embrace.

**All: Even though you are always with us, we forget, we stumble and we lose our way, overwhelmed with the struggles of our lives.**

One: Again and again, you have sought us and patiently waited for us. You offered yourself in the splendor of angels and in the lowliness of the manger.

**All: Forgive us and welcome us to the manger again. We are ready to be overwhelmed with joy. Amen.**

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## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Good news! For ALL the people! This is the gospel message: God's joy is for all of us. Be assured of God's love for you. Amen.

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## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

One: God intends the world to be overwhelmed with joy. And yet, too many find themselves struggling. We are called to answer the need of the world without being overwhelmed by it. Remember, God intends the world to be overwhelmed with nothing but joy. In that joy, we give. In that joy, we share. In that joy, we celebrate the holiness of this night.

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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: Holy God, we are grateful – for this journey to the manger, for this community gathered around candles of light, and for Christ born to us this night. We pray that you carry our prayers, talents and money where there is greatest need, transforming them into joy for the world. Surprise us with what our ministry together can do. Amen.**