

1st Week of Advent: Hope Liturgy

Invocation

O God of Deep Space and Time, we come together to worship. Like the Magi who journeyed far by the wisdom of the stars, we now enter this sacred season of Advent. Some of us come ready to share hope, while others are on the path to find it. Some of us bring a spark or a kindling, while others the memory of stardust on our skin. May you bless us just as we are—however dawn or dusk we feel today—to guide us to discover the cosmos enfleshed among us here and now. Amen.

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: My kin in Christ, as we gather to light the first candle of the Advent wreath, let us bring with us the companion of hope.

All: Living action.

One: What sounds could those loving actions make, friends? Perhaps it is the first birdsong in the morning or dishes being washed at the evening community meal.

All: The ding of a text bearing good news or the ring of church bells calling us to come together.

One: What sights and scents might such actions have? Maybe ships carrying formula

and lentils through waters of violence; the smell of coffee shared on the protest line, or in a church basement

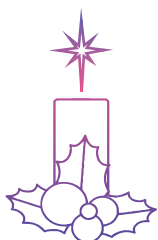
All: Or a mountain bridge restored after the storm, and the sweet earthy notes of a balsam tree by the fire.

One: This Advent season, let us be companions of hope. (Light the first candle)

All: Embodying our “yes” to God in what we do, what we sense, what we choose to pay attention to.

One: Accompanying despair, but not becoming it.

All: Living into our “Amen,” that it may be so here today and tomorrow. Amen.



*“...WHEN THEY SAW THE **STAR**, THEY WERE FILLED WITH **JOY**...”*

MATTHEW 2:10

1st Week of Advent: Hope Liturgy

Prayer of Transformation and Grace

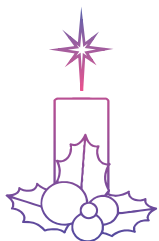
Poet Alberto Rios reminds us how *for centuries we as human beings bring with us simple solutions and songs—the river bridges, star charts, and song harmonies—all in service to a simple idea: that we can make a house called “tomorrow.”*

O God, help us to be stewards of hope, remembering to use our ancestral knowledge to deal with today's challenges and our own personal struggles. When we need to be held accountable, let both the river and the bridge show us the way. When we do not take action because we think it won't matter, let song harmonies help us hear our part in the whole. And when we need second, third, and countless chances, may the stars remind us that we can return to our wholeness again and again. O Handmaid of Hope, may your grace bring us home. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Today, we lay before you our time, our energy, our gifts—washed in the hope that Advent brings. A hope that fills the crevices of doubt and fear, a hope that unfurls its promises in the sacred rhythm of your divine timing.

May we dare to offer the entirety of what we possess, entrusting it to the unfolding of grace—that its seeds will blossom into unexpected blessings for just the right moment. Amen.



“...*WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY...*”

MATTHEW 2:10