

## 3rd Week of Advent: Joy Liturgy

### Invocation

O God of Deep Space and Connection, as Elizabeth embraced Mary, may we welcome in worship! As the planets formed by two particles pulled together, may we rejoice in the miracle that is this community. And as the Magi saw the star and were filled with joy, may we find the light in the night in our persistent trust, that you will find us wherever we are. Amen.

### Litany of the Advent Candle

One: Divine Delight, it is no accident that you made us for ceremony, for ritual, for worship.

**All: This practice is a gift. This practice opens something in us.**

One: As Mark Nepo writes, *"the secret joy you bring into the open..."*

**All: "...is my joy which I thought I had lost."**

One: It is from this deep well of delight that we draw from today.

**All: And through lighting this candle of joy, we witness an outward sign of an inward grace.**

One: (Light the three candles) Yes, let us befriend this simple act today.

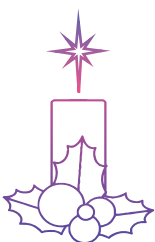
**All: And carry it with us knowing that God spoke of joy having the final say. Amen.**

### Prayer of Transformation and Grace

*Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?* The poet and farmer Wendell Berry asks. And so, Cosmic Womb of Life, help us to tear down all systems of violence. The seeds of those systems within us, the aftermath we don't yet know, the overwhelm we see on the news. Grant us the grace to be midwives of joy by being protectors of peace. Grant us the courage to give birth to Christ in each moment. And invite us to know when to rest and when to move mountains for justice. Amen.

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

MATTHEW 2:10



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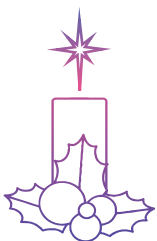
### Invitation to the Offering

God reveals to us that in joy there is an opening, a loosening, a feeling that can burst forth from within us. May the joy we have experienced—and the joy yet to come—open in us a generosity of spirit to visit us through today. May we come to this table like Mary and be reminded of our cherished connection to all that exists, to kin and stranger alike, to the present and the future too. Come, let us celebrate our belonging through this offering. Amen.

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### Prayer of Dedication

Living God, as the friendship of Elizabeth and Mary prepared the way for the Holy, may we, through our relationships, do the same. Bless our offerings to our delight in one another and to the work required to cultivate communities of care. Amen.



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

MATTHEW 2:10