

Advent Service

WE ARE WAITING FOR OUR SAVIOR

OPENING HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL CBW 3 #312

OPENING PRAYER: Dear Lord, we the women of the Catholic Women's League and our friends await your coming during this season of anticipation. Fill our lives with your presence. Fulfill our hopes and our dreams. Let your light break through our darkness as we announce the coming of Emmanuel. Be with us Lord, as we ready ourselves.

READING: ISAIAH 40: 3-11

REFLECTION: REJOICE, MARY

Mary, chosen from among all women, rejoice, the time is drawing near.

You are the secret garden where the blessed flower blossomed. In you, God takes on a body. In you, God takes on life. You are the Ark of the New Covenant, the home of "God with us.

You are the burning bush that burns but is not consumed. You carry within you the God who made the heavens and established the earth.

You are the Amen, the Yes to God, ever open to what is asked of you. You are the bride who brings joy to the husband who has chosen you.

Full of grace, full of love, you show us that there is a God, and you are a constant reminder that God is coming.

You are the promise of Advent, always ready, always available, and you invite us to join in your prayer: "Lord, let it be done to us according to your will."

Let us take a moment during our Advent time of waiting to think about our response to this invitation of Mary's to join in her prayer, "Lord, let it be done to us according to your will.

Litany: Advent, a season of joyful expectation, has a twofold nature. It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. **RESPONSE: COME, LORD JESUS.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

You are the light in our darkness,

Bring hope into the lives of all people

Give your peace to all nations,

Be the joy of all who love you

Bring unity among all who believe in you,

Bless us as we gather here in your name,

Lord Jesus stay with us always.

CLOSING PRAYER: God of life, God of Hope, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your word. As we await the coming of our Savior, increase our longing and give us the strength to grow in love. May the dawn of Jesus' coming find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is God with us. Amen.

Leader: December 8th marks the feast of the Immaculate Conception. In honor of Mary, the Mother of our Savior, let us end our Advent Reflection with the hymn "Immaculate Mary".

CLOSING HYMN: CBW 3 #463