

## *ADVENT'S CRY*

### *Welcome*

Leader: Good evening and welcome to this time of quiet and reflection.  
I now invite you to close your eyes and place your open palms on your knees.  
Enter now into your deep centre, the cave of your heart and rest there. Be relaxed.  
Open up to the Spirit



Song Monica Brown's CD  
*Gather us, O God,  
Body Spirit Soul and Mind  
Gather us O God  
One in union now with you.*

### *Leader:*

Advent conjures up for us many images. What do you hear when the word Advent is spoken? (Silence)

Hold those images as we explore them and others.

One feeling many people have today is a feeling of being in a wilderness, wasteland, a desert.

Why?

Because when we look at the world we see so much violence, injustice and hatred on every front. Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, unrest in African countries, global warming, the aids pandemic, destruction and pollution of the earth, and on it goes. No wonder many of us feel exasperated and lost in the wilderness that appears to have no road out of the mess. No wonder many today feel very much disorientated.

And then we have our own personal lives! I now invite you into a reflection on where you feel you are in your own journey right now. What would be your wilderness, your desert, your pain at this time? I ask you to get in touch with it and name it for yourself. I invite you to cup your hands on your lap and hold your pain, your wilderness, your desert in your hands.

*Silence*     *Hymn*     *"Dante's Prayer"*     [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) *(On your Laptop)*



**Leader:** We might just ask where is God in our wilderness, in our pain?  
Why doesn't God do something? Where is God's presence to be felt?

Jeremiah, the prophet, in the Old Testament, asked the same questions?  
He felt God's absence in what was happening in his day.

God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house and observe the potter.  
He went down to the potter's house.

The potter had clay on a wheel and was moulding it the way that he wanted.  
If you were that clay in God the potter's hands what would he be creating in you?

What way would you like to be fashioned? What is God forming/creating in  
you right now, at this time in your life?

In the wilderness and pain of being turned on the potter's wheel,  
I wonder into what God is moulding us, as Brothers, right now!

***Silence***

***Taize Hymn*** Use [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) "*Stay With Us*" (on your laptop)

***Stay with us, Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall,  
Stay with us Lord Jesus Christ, Light in our darkness.***

### ***THE ADVENT PROMISE***

We have heard the Advent cry of pain in the desert and the wilderness.  
We now turn to the Advent Promises and what wonderful promises are made to us in the  
Scriptures. The blind will see, the lame walk, the deaf shall hear, flowers will bloom in

the desert, the dead shall be raised, a virgin will bring forth a child who will be wonder counsellor, prince of peace and saviour of the world. These are just a few of the incredible promises! There will not only be a light but a glorious light which will shine and dispel the darkness.

Leader: I now invite you to take the time to ponder these questions:

**What are your expectations of your God during this season of Advent?**

**What glorious light do you want from your God?**

**What do you want your God to bring into your wilderness of pain?**

**What tears do you need wiped dry?**

**What relationships need to be reconciled or maybe terminated?**

**What fears are oppressing you?**

**What in your life needs to be harmonized?**

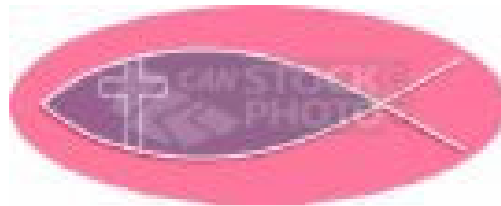
**What are you expecting of your God?**

*Silence*

*Taize Song "O Lord Hear My Prayer"*

*Or [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Taize Promo "Come To Me" (on your laptop)*

## FAITH



Leader: God does keep the promises that God has made.

The only thing is that God's way of keeping his promises may not be in the form that we want. God's ways may not be our ways. We are ultimately left with a decision of faith.

Will we believe in the foolish wisdom of this God or not?

Will we allow this God to mould us in the way God wants or not?

Will we hold onto the kernel of faith in our heart or not?

Do we believe in the God of surprises or not?

Our faith is indeed a precious gift.

## CANDLE ACTION

Leader:

You have been given a candle.

I am going to ask you to come forward and light a taper from the Advent candle..

(When all candles have been lit)



Leader:

The candle you hold is a symbol of your faith.

Leader:

The candle of faith brings light to the darkness of your desert wilderness.

The candle of faith is so fragile and can be extinguished so easily  
so take care of it and protect it.

Now I invite you to hold your faith candle close to your heart.

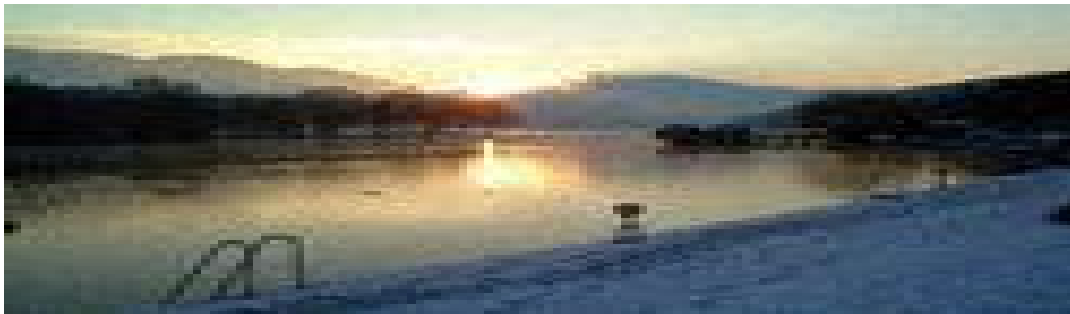
Hold it there for a few moments. (Silence)

Allow its light to penetrate deep within your heart.

Allow its flame to shine so you can be light for others.

Let its flame burn your heart with love and justice.

*CD Taize Song or [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) "In the Lord"*



***Live Jesus in our Hearts! Forever!***

