

Hear Us

Prelude

Open in Reflective Silence (Quotes and questions for guided reflection found on the back.)

Opening Litany

We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God. **Hear us, O God.**

Incline your ear and hear our words. **Hear us, O God.**

Wondrously show your steadfast love. **Hear us, O God.**

You send us a savior for those who seek refuge. **Hear us, O God.**

From their adversaries, they find refuge at your right hand. **Hear us, O God.**

Guard us as the apple of thy eye. **And we shall behold your face in righteousness.**

Hymn "Creator of the Stars of Night" ELW # 245

Prayer

Eternal God, you lead your people with gentleness and wisdom, hear our prayers! Bring peace to all on this earth, especially those in areas ravaged by war, poverty, or greed, that all may be comforted by your salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW # 257 (st. 2)

Reading 1 John 5:1-15

Reflection

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW # 254

Prayer

God for who we wait, you come to us, in water and word, in broken bread and wine. Hear us now as we pray, and come to the aid of your people. For those who are sick...for those who are displaced...for those who are tired...and for others who are in need of your care...

Hear us God and come to the aid of your people. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray. Our Father...

Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound!" ELW # 239

Silent Reflection

Postlude

Reflective Quotes/Questions

“During my journey through life I have moved in and out of agnosticism and even atheism, as I become bewildered by what mankind has done to God; and so, too often, I see God in man’s image, rather than the other way around. But I cannot live for long in this dead-end world, but return to the more open places of my child’s intuitive love of God, where I know that all creatures are the concern of the God who created the galaxies, and who nevertheless notes the fall of each sparrow. And from the darkness I cry out: God! And it is enough”

-*The Irrational Season*, Madeleine L’Engle. 1977

“Lament is a sign of both honest faith and resolute hope. When we worship together, we bring with us our experience in the world, from our most profound joys to our most painful sorrows.”

-*A Time to Weep-During Advent*, John D. Witvliet. 1997

Read the text for this evening. What might God be up to in this text?

What joys have you brought to God recently? What sorrows?

What does asking *according to God’s will* sound/look like?

How does the season of Advent invite us into deeper prayer life?