

Advent Prayer Service 2009

LEADER:

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

OPENING SONG:

We Shall Be the Light of God © 2000
Janet Vogt and Mark Friedman,
Oregon Catholic Press

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, as we await the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us remember in our hearts all those who have yet to hear His "Good News," especially children in the Missions who are poor and suffering. Help us to be missionaries and to bring the light and love of Your only Son, Jesus, to all the world.

Reading: Isaiah 30:19-26

Response: (Isaiah 30:18) Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Shout praises to the Lord!
Our God is kind,
And it is right and good
To sing praises to him.

Response: (Isaiah 30:18) Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

He renews our hopes
and heals our body
He decided how many stars
there would be in the sky
and gave each one a name.

Response: (Isaiah 30:18) Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Our Lord is great and powerful!
He understands everything.
Celebrate and sing!
Play your harps
For the Lord our God!

REFLECTION:

Did you ever stop to think about the difference between "nagging" and "nudging"? When we "nag," we make consistent demands on another person, sometimes even often highlighting faults to move that person to do something. On the other hand, "nudging" involves getting a person's attention in a gentle manner and prodding him or her into action. During Advent, HCA nudges us to pray and offer personal sacrifices

for children in the Missions so that young people everywhere may come to know about Jesus' message of hope, peace and love. *How do you "nudge" others to share the love of Jesus during Advent and Christmas?*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, help us to keep "awake" during this Advent Season so that we may hear You speak to us just as the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary. Holy Spirit inspire our hearts to say "Yes!" to God and all that He asks of us, including our being missionaries for His Son, Jesus. Amen.

OPTIONAL CLOSING SONG:

Christ Be Our Light © 2001 Bernadette Farrell, Oregon Catholic Press

Cut Out Hands Advent Wreath Craft

YOU WILL NEED:

green construction paper, glue / glue sticks, scissors, poster board, markers or pens

Trace your hand on the green construction paper and use this as a template to cut out 24 additional hands. Then, cut out a large circle from the poster board leaving a hole in the center so that it looks like a large donut (ask an adult to help).

Label the front of each hand with numbers from 1 through 25. On the back of each hand, list a prayer you will say or a "good deed" you will do during the Advent Season. Each day, glue a "hand" to your poster board (number side down) in a circular pattern to remind you of the Advent activity you have committed to do that day until the "wreath" is completed. *Don't forget to include missionary activities, such as praying the World Mission Rosary or offering a donation to HCA!*

