

Lights for Lima

The Second week of Advent Prayer for Climate Change

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Ambiance: A darkened or dimly lit space, soft instrumental music, advent wreath and candles

Call to Prayer:

1. **Leader:** During the month of December, we who live in the northern hemisphere of Earth, experience the increasing brevity of sunlight and the lengthening of night. The winter solstice, December 21st, is the day of the longest night. Our ancestors, so aligned with earth's rhythms, were acutely aware of Earth's annual retreat from her glowing star, and created many rituals to seduce the sun's return. Today, in the context of this hemisphere's deepening darkness, the Christian community celebrates the ritual of lighting Advent candles and awaits the return of Jesus, the Light of the Creator's Love, into our lives and world. During Advent, we gather around a wreath of green, representing hope and the generative gift of life. The circular shape of the wreath reminds that we, with Earth and her community of creation, are held in the eternal, evolving, and abiding presence of the Creator.



Light First Advent candle

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Reader: This Advent, however, we are increasingly aware that Earth and her community of life are threatened by the unremitting darkness of human ignorance regarding climate change. More than ever we must all commit to study, understand, and address the causes, the consequences, and our personal contributions to the demise of the delicate balance of Earth's interconnected systems.

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Reader: Hope however is on the horizon! Global leaders will meet in Peru this December to craft agreements and a more comprehensive plan to address the death-dealing impact of greenhouse gases on our planet. This meeting is critically important. These leaders need our support and prayers. The Lima Climate Change Conference will shape a tone and a direction for the forthcoming 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris where global leaders will be called to affirm policies and provide resources that will stop the rise of global warming. Beginning the second week of Advent, communities throughout the world will "light a pathway to Lima." Together we pray and hope that our leaders will be "*enlightened*" as they discern ways to heal the planet.

Light Second Advent candle

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Leader: As we pray in hope that the light of love and wisdom will turn our minds, hearts, and resolve toward the needs of earth, let us join our hearts and voices together...

1. Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world once a garden where humans could taste and see the goodness of the earth.
 2. But our eyes have been blinded to the beauty of Creation, to the knowledge that it is Gift—one given, so that all may live and flourish.
1. Our indifference changes the world; even mighty glaciers weep now.
 2. Our disregard for our sisters and brothers, threatens the very skies above us. Our passivity begins to choke us, the excess of our lifestyles blots out the sun.
1. Call us to renewal, to stewardship; call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures.
 2. Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains. Give us new spiritual energy to become active in loving the world through concrete actions in our daily life. Give us new voices to speak out for earth's health and sustainability.

Together we pray and hope that our leaders will be "enlightened" as they discern ways to heal the planet.



1. Bless us again with the gift of being a joyful community; Bless us with a love of your Creation and for You who dwell within all, Amen

(--adapted) Jane Deren, 2009

Leader:

As we bring our prayer to a close, let us ask God our Creator to renew us in hope that our world and our planet will be restored to peace.

All Sing: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.