

## **Advent 2016 Worship Resources:      *Lighting the Way...***

**Christmas Eve, 24 December 2016**

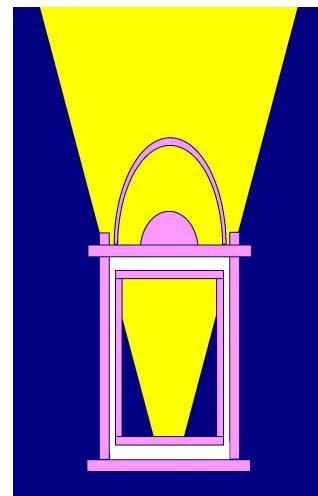
## ***Lighting the Way to... the Unexpected Christ***

**Suggested Scriptures:** Isaiah 9:2-9 & Luke 2:1-20

## **Advent Wreath Lighting Litany:**

Christ, it seems, is unexpected.

deep darkness enfolds the land  
burdens are heavy  
oppression weighs down our hearts  
weariness heaves our souls.



we make our way through  
wilderness lands,  
seeking refuge,  
laboring to deliver,  
ready to welcome new life  
to wrap it in warmth and  
hold it close.

come, Christ, come.

be born in us,  
as you were born in the stable,  
as you were born in the hearts of the shepherds  
as you were born in the songs of angels.

become our justice,  
become our endless peace,  
become our great joy,  
become our Savior.

make what is unexpected, known.

as we light Your candle,  
light our way.

**Communion Prayers:**

"For unto us a child is born."  
A light breaks into the darkness.  
Welcome, Christ.  
Your birth ushers in a new day.  
Immanuel  
God with us  
You light the way.  
You bring good news.  
We give you thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. We receive your presence among us. On this night, we remember that you are always coming to us. Bringing us peace, hope, joy, and love in new ways. May this meal light the way for us. Amen.

Beloved Creator, Christ, and Comforter, we thank you. For this meal and for the culmination of our Advent journey. Come into our hearts, again and again. May we always discern your light. Amen.

**Advent Prayer:**

"Do not be afraid," said the Spirit of God.  
I am coming to you in the tears of those in need, open your hearts.  
"Do not be afraid,"  
I am here with those seeking a shelter, open your door.  
"Do not be afraid,"  
it is just me, hungry and thirsty.  
"Do not be afraid",  
let me in, for Christ to be born again. Amen.

*En Español:*

"No tengan miedo", dijo el Espíritu de Dios. Yo voy a ti en las lágrimas de los necesitados, abran los corazones. "No temas" estoy aquí con aquellas que buscan refugio, iabre la puerta!. "No tengan miedo" soy sólo yo, con hambre y sed. "No tengan miedo", déjeme entrar, Cristo precisa nacer de nuevo