

Litany of Remembrance – Lighting the Advent Wreath

Light one purple candle

One: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly – their faces and their voices. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation when all Creation waits for the Light.

All: We remember them with love. May God’s eternal love surround them.

Sing first verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel

No. 211

Light the second purple candle

One: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace.

All: We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

Sing the second verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Light the pink candle.

One: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and the fear, the anger and the pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you – for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone – in darkness – and in knowledge of our own mortality.

All: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light – the light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark – with the turning of the Wheel the dawn will come – and dawn defeats the darkness.

Play and sing the third verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel

A period of silent reflection...

Light the last purple candle.

One: We light this forth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Hanukkah and Christmas, which both began with abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light – and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

Play and sing forth verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel

A period of silent reflection...