



continuing the journey of

transforming grace:

transforming practice

ADVENT #2 | CHRISTMAS TIDE 2024

Opening Song

Light of the World | Lauren Daigle

Opening Prayer

I Will Light Candles this Christmas | Howard Thurman

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

Scripture

Luke 2: 9-10

"...they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

Listen and Learn

America's surprising greatest strength starts at your dinner table

Reflect

In this season of Christmastide, from the Advent hope and expectation into the reflection of the year gone by and the one ahead, imagine creating a list of who might be invited to your potluck dinner of diversity and difference.

As we move towards the year ahead, create a list of the voices who have been absent from your conversations this year. If you were to have a potluck dinner of invitation, what questions might begin a conversation. These questions might help you to begin your list-making:

- What is the most important value that you learned in your family or culture?
- Who inspires you?
- What do you hope for the next generation?
- When was the first time you recall knowing your cultural identity?
- What food makes a regular meal feel like a celebration?

Closing Prayer

The Collect | Mary Stewart, 1904

Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face-to-face, without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things: make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life, we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart familiar to us all, and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Closing Song

Do Not Be Afraid | Steven Stewart

