Greeting & Welcome

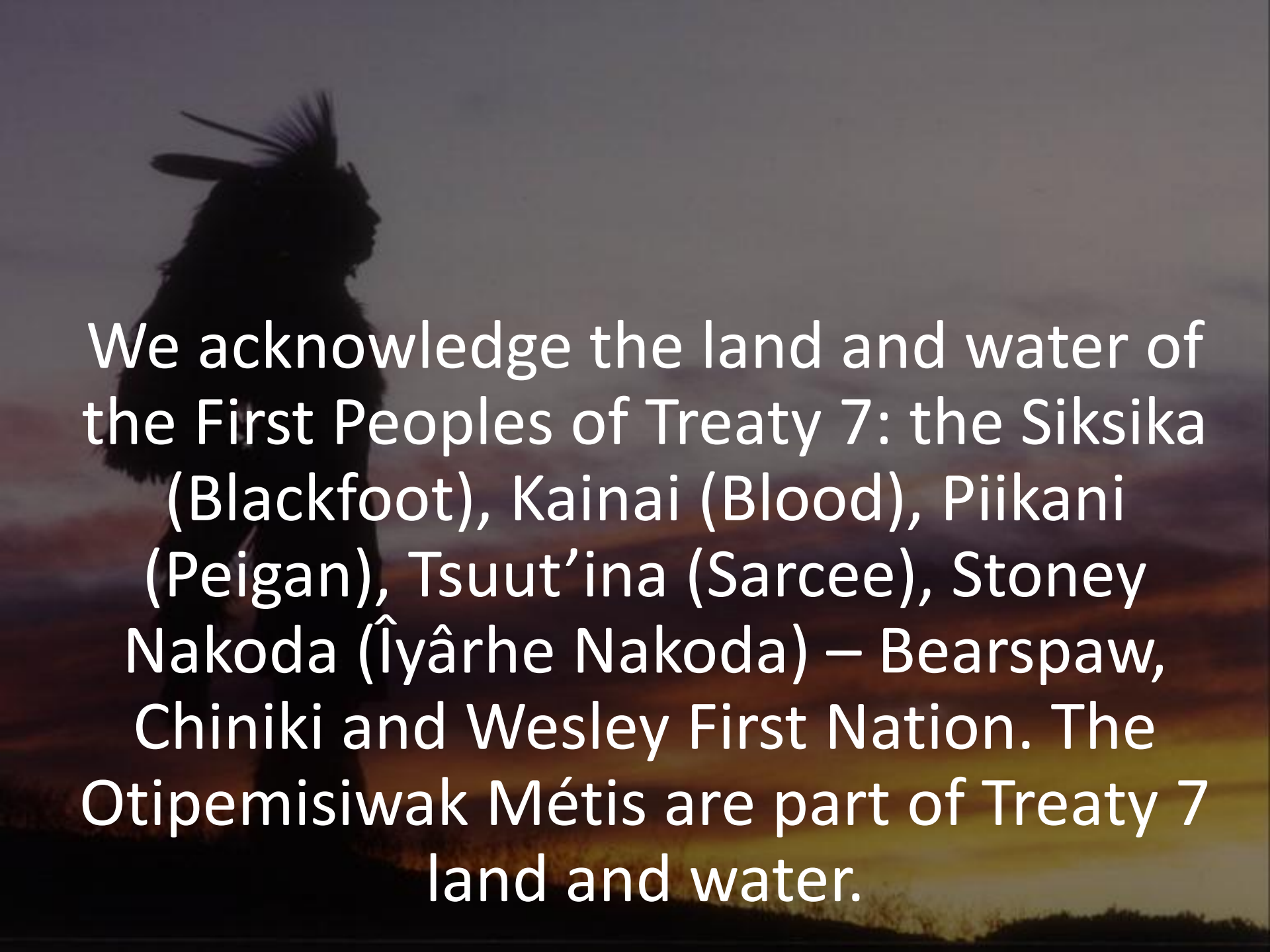
L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: and also, with you.

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

Announcements




We acknowledge the land and water of the First Peoples of Treaty 7: the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Tsuut’ina (Sarcee), Stoney Nakoda (Îyârhe Nakoda) – Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley First Nation. The Otipemisiwak Métis are part of Treaty 7 land and water.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

(round)

*Voices United #10

*VU #10 Prepare the Way of the Lord: Words, Music: Morningstar Music. Publication/Burnamwood Publications. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him,
make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord!
(LV)

Advent Candle-Lighting

Written by Susan Girard and Brian Jackson; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2026/27 page 68. Used with permission

One: God loves us always. Because of that love, we have hope that God is always with us, even when our lives become challenging.

All: God lives in each one of us. When life is tough, we care for each other, sharing hope for better days, sharing strength to endure. May the lighting of this candle remind us of the hope that lives within each one of us. May we bring Gods hope to one another.



I Am Walking a Path of Hope

*More Voices #221

*MV #221 I Am Walking A Path of Peace: Words, Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under OBE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
lead me home, lead me home.
(LV)

Call to Worship

L: Come people of God for it is Advent time!

P: What is Advent?

L: It is a time to prepare and wait to empty out our spirits and open up our hearts.

P: Why would we do that?

L: Because Jesus is going to be born very soon and wants your spirits and hearts open.

P: Okay! Let's get ready for Jesus!

Written by Leigh Sinclair; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2026/27 page 27. Used with permission

Opening Prayer



Written by Carman McClelland; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2026/27 page 28. Used with permission

L: You gather us together, God of hope.
P: We ask You to bring renewed hope into our hearts.
L: You gather us together, God of peace.
P: We ask You to bring peace into this world.
L: You gather us together, God of joy.
P: We ask You to bring joy into the midst of doubt and despair.

L: You gather us together, God of love.

P: We ask You to ignite the flame of your love at the centre of our lives, not only today and during this Advent time but always. Amen.


Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
*Voices United #333
* VU #333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling: Public Domain

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.
(LV)



Welcoming a New Member
Wale Sadare.


Commitment of the
New Member

Congregational Commitment

L: Dear Friends in Christ, Let us pledge to Wale our support and care:

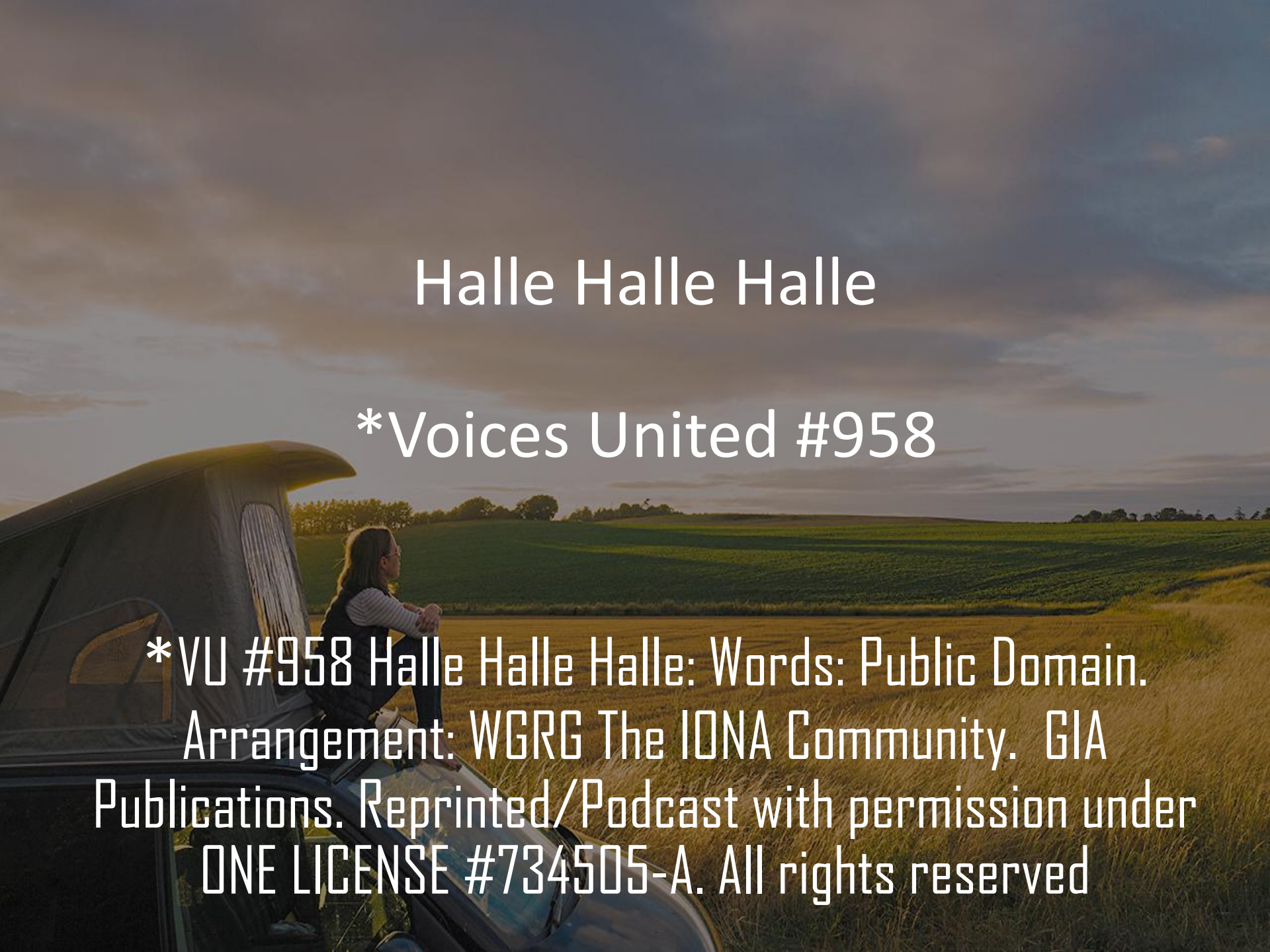
P: As your brothers and sisters in Christ, We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out The mission and ministry of Christ's Church.

We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.



Welcome; Prayer for the Candidate and Blessing



Halle Halle Halle

*Voices United #958

*VU #958 Halle Halle Halle: Words: Public Domain. Arrangement: WGRG The IONA Community. GIA Publications. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(LV)

Prayer of Confession



Written by Eric Hebert-Daly; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2023-2024; page 30;
Used with permission

L: Creator God, you made us in your image, filled with possibilities and with hope. Your hope continues to dance within us and through us.

Sometimes we do not feel that we are enough, yet you've given us the gifts to make your dream possible.

We ask, as we gather, that you remind us that we are well equipped for the work of hope you have in mind for us.

P: We ask for your forgiveness when we do not dare to hope and for the times when we failed to serve others as you have called us to do. Prepare us for the birth of new life in our midst so that we may be good parents of the light born on a cold December night. Amen.

Words of Assurance



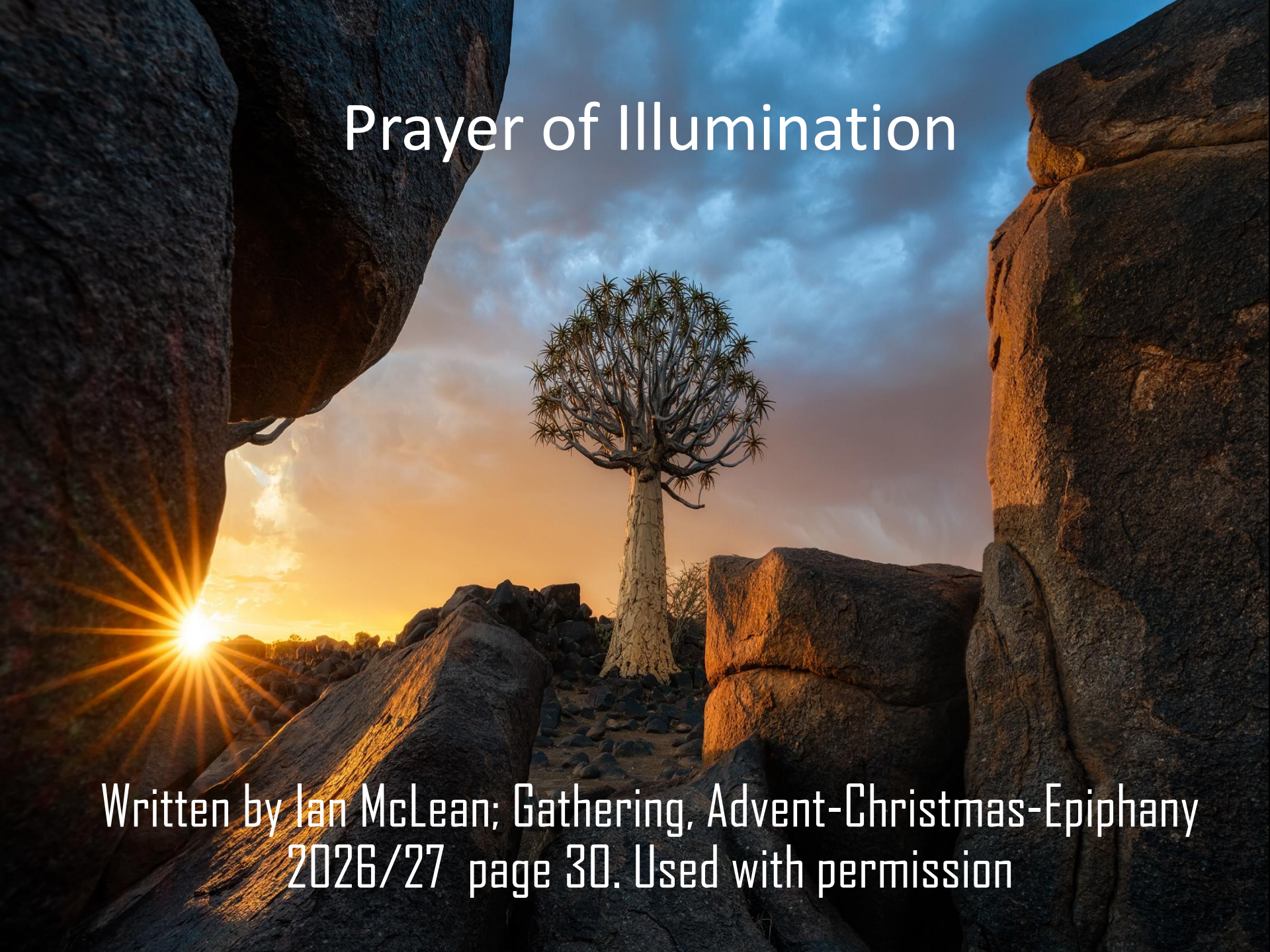
Written by Roger West; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2023; page 34;
Modified; Used with permission

Hope is a Star

*Voices United #7
Verse 1

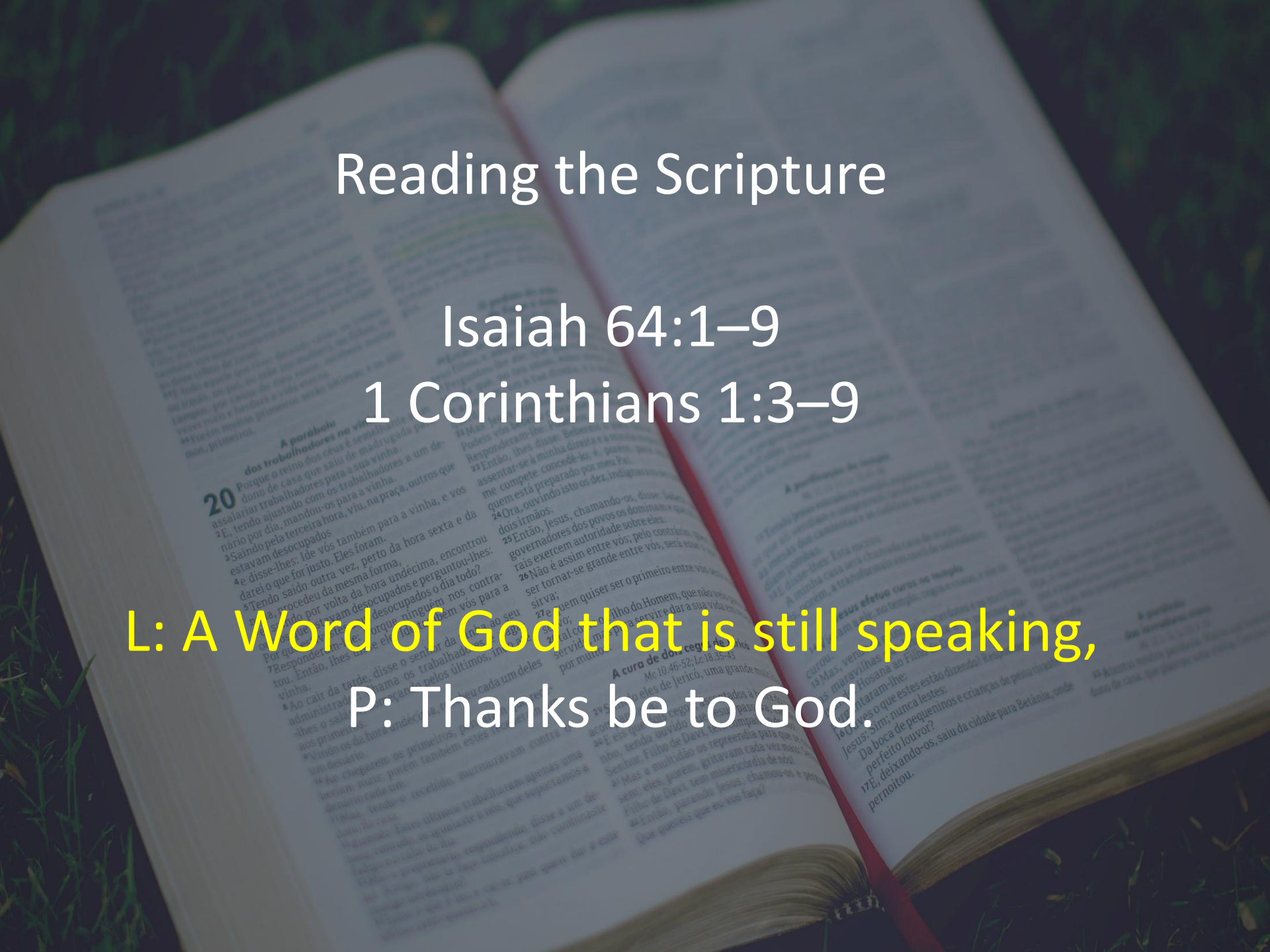
*VU #7 Hope Is a Star: Words: Brian Wren 1985. Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987. 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.
(LV)



Prayer of Illumination

Written by Ian McLean; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2026/27 page 30. Used with permission



Reading the Scripture

Isaiah 64:1–9
1 Corinthians 1:3–9

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,
P: Thanks be to God.



Message

All Earth Is Waiting

*Voices United #5

* VU #5 All Earth is Waiting: Words, Music: Oregon Catholic Press. Translation: Gertrude Suppe. The United Methodist Publishing House. Harmony 1989 Skinner Chavez-Melo. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

All earth is waiting
to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling,
seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice
and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet
to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us',
our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom
once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys
will have to be made plain,
open new highways,
new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer,
so come all and see,
and open the doorways
as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable
the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence
throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians
and is with us now;
again, on arriving,
Christ brings us liberty.
(LV)

Advent Holy Communion



Today, we are going to have the special Advent Holy Communion liturgy developed by Rev. Bob Root and Rev. Richard Bott. It will include singing the verses of Hymn Voices United # 1, please, remain seated as we sing these single verses during the liturgy.

Introduction to communion

Leader: All journeys begin with careful preparation: what to take, what to leave behind, thoughts of …..

….. And we are welcome here because we gather at Christ's invitation.
So come to his table and set your sights on Bethlehem.

Written by Bob Root; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2015-2016 page 63. Used with permission

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God is with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God
People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 1

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: God, Most Holy, we do give thanks as we gather at Christ's table, as we remember your love, holy and whole, a love that has held us from the beginning of the beginning, and a love that will hold us for as long as time exists.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 2

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: We need your Wisdom, God. We need your guidance. We need your invitation – your calling – your whispers and your shouts – through the voices of prophets and priest, grandmothers and grandfathers, children and infants, all who listen and speak your love.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 3

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: Because we didn’t always listen, because we don’t always listen; you gave to us Christ, alive in the world!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 4-5

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: Wholly God and wholly human, a tiny baby, a youth an adult,
a teacher, a healer, a challenger, a Saviour;
He laughed with those who laughed and cried with those who cried, but most of all he loved us with a love that never, ever ends,
A love that surpasses even death, a love that brings new life – not only to us ... but to all creation! Hallelujah!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 6

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: On the night before he was taken to his death on a cross, Jesus gathered with his disciples.

Well…he gathered with his friends. He shared with them a meal of remembrance and freedom. After an act of utmost humility and hospitality – washing their feet – he blessed the bread and broke it saying:

“Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Each time you eat bread, remember me.”



As the meal drew to a close, he blessed a cup of wine and passed it onto them, saying: “Take this and drink it. This is my promise in my life’s blood that sins are forgiven. Each time you drink, remember me.”



So, we eat, we drink, and we remember! Holy God, send your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts, that they – and we – might truly be Christ's body and blood alive in the world!

People: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

* Voices United #1
Verse 7

*VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
(LV)

Leader: We pray all these things to you, God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – because we know that you are like a mother who gives us life.
You are like…

Our Father, who art in heaven… hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
LIFTING UP OF THE CUP



Leader: The gifts of God, for all Creation!

People: Thanks be to God!

Prayer after Communion

With this taste of the bread of Life,
with this taste of the cup of Love,
send us into the world, God –
so that we might whisper your coming,
so that we might sing your Advent,
so that we might live your birth, now and forever. Amen

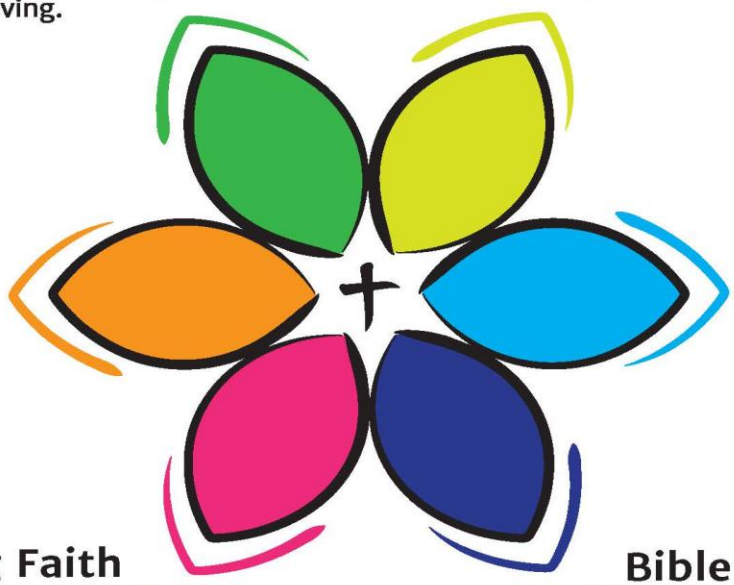
Written by Richard Bott; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany

The Offering Invitation



There are many ways to donate.
PAR, E-transfer (smoretreasurer@gmail.com) or placed in the plate as you exit the sanctuary.

Discipleship Flower – Key Spiritual Practices



Prayer

Spending time in God's presence; spoken, silent, moving, still, sharing and receiving.

Loving Service

Caring for the needs of those both within the church and outside the church; and seeking justice for all.

Generosity

Sharing freely from the talents, time and treasure that God has given us to help do God's mission.

Worship

Gathering in God's presence with others of faith to celebrate what God is doing.

Sharing Faith

Inviting people to come and experience God's love revealed in Jesus and in the church.

Bible Study

Learning what the core stories of our faith teach us about faithful living.

Be aware! Keep alert! For you do not know when an opportunity will come to be generous, and you must be ready to respond.

Sung Dedication

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Voices United #541*

*VU #541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow: Public Domain.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.
(LV)

Prayer of Dedication

Written by David Sparks; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2026/27 page 30. Used with permission

L: Our gifts will bring hope as we anticipate the coming of Jesus.

P: Loving God, bless our gifts and use them.

L: Our gifts will bring peace as we emulate Jesus the peace-bringer.

P: Loving God, bless our gifts and use them.

L: Our gifts will bring joy as we worship and work compassionately.

P: Loving God, bless our gifts and use them.

L: Our gifts will bring love in this community and beyond.

P: Loving God, bless our gifts and use them. Amen.



Once in Royal David's City

* Voices United #62
(Verses 1, 4)

*VU #62 Once In Royal David's City: Words, Music: Public Domain. Harmony: Shawnee Press. Reprinted/'Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
(LV)

Commissioning and Blessing



Written by Laura J. Turnbull; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany; 2022-2023 page 32; Used with permission

L: We have lit the first candle in our Advent wreath.

P: Our Advent journey has begun.

L: We have gathered with friends in faith.

P: Our service in Christ's name continues.

L: We have received the good news of God's great hope in each of us.

P: We go into the world to make a difference.

L: May the generosity of God be with you in the coming week.
May the blessedness of Jesus Christ give you strength as you live out your faith. May the delight of the Holy Spirit wrap around you and help you reach out to others with compassion and love, this day and forevermore. Amen



Amen

* Voices United #974

*VU #974 Amen: Words: Public Domain. Music: Desert Flower Music. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen
(LV)



Sharing the Peace

L: MAY THE GOD OF PEACE GO WITH YOU.

P: AND ALSO WITH YOU.


Please join us for Coffee
and Fellowship in the
Library after the service!