

Advent & Psychic Birth

Week 1: Fear

Invocation:

Yahweh, Great God of the Journey,
As the year fails and the light fades before our eyes,
our fears loom before us as a vast, insurmountable
peak. As we tremble at the mountain's foot, may
we find courage in the knowledge that we are never
alone and that all things are possible in You. Bless
our wreath and the women who gather around it.
May the tiny flame that we kindle tonight become
a beacon to guide us on our way.

Amen.

Hymn:

All the changes that you dread so
They will take you to new lands.

What you flee from, what you fear for
It is all in God's good hands.

Climb the mountain deep within you,
Find the center of your place.

Your true self will be reflected
In the love of God's own face.

Sending Forth:

God of the darkening days
we leave now
filled with the challenges of Your word
and the power of all that has been expressed in
the Advent wreath
that is our circle of women.
May the grace of this time go with us
as we put out the light
descend into darkness
face our fears
and ready ourselves for the new birth that You
have promised.

Amen.

Prayers by Sacha Ludwig and Mary Aquin O'Neill, RSM
Hymn by Mary Aquin O'Neill, RSM
Melody: "Sprit Seeking Light and Beauty" by Janet Stuart

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Week 2: Anger

Invocation:

Mighty Spirit of God,
Throughout the Holy Scriptures, you have made
yourself known through wind and flame. Like fire,
anger burns hot and can be a destructive force. Yet
righteous anger, like flame, can also be a purifying
force, clearing a path to new growth. Bless this
wreath and the women gathered around it. May
the candles we light tonight enkindle in us a zeal
for your justice and burn away the dross of our
weaknesses.

Amen.

Hymn:

Claim your power, feel your fire,
Let it burn away the dross.

Like the Baptist, face the wildness,
Wail and cry for what is lost.

Be creative with your anger,
And denounce what is unfair.

In the shadows, in the desert,
You will find that God is there.

Sending Forth:

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Amen.

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Week 3: Joy

Invocation:

Source of All Life,
The beauty of your creation still echoes the
great love and gladness that called us into
being. Throughout all of time you have
beckoned us to relinquish our spiritual
smallness that we might swell with the
bounty of Your love. Bless this wreath and
the women gathered around it. As our
circle of light expands toward completion,
may we too grow in the fullness of life so
that, pregnant with new possibilities, we
may bear Your “tidings of great joy” into
the world.

Amen.

Hymn:

Follow Mary, be the vessel,
Hold the god-life that sets free;

Beg the grace to be the mother
Of a world that's yet to be.

In the body, in the spirit,
In the life that's ours to claim,

We can know a joy unbounded
In the One who has no name.

Sending Forth:

God of the darkening days
we leave now
filled with the challenges of Your word
and the power of all that has been expressed
in the Advent wreath
that is our circle of women.
May the grace of this time go with us
as we put out the light
descend into darkness
face our fears
and ready ourselves for the new birth that
You have promised.

Amen.

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Week 4: Longing

Invocation:

Great Alpha and Omega,
You were there before the dawning of time and you
will be there when the last bright spot in the universe
winks out. Our own brief little lives are so harried,
caught up in the urgency of the here and now. Bless
this wreath and the women gathered around it. As
our circle of light is completed, help us to see the
world and the people around us through Your eyes.
Grant us the peace, patience, and serenity of life
viewed through the lense of eternity.

Amen.

Hymn:

Spirit seeking light and beauty
Heart that longest for thy rest

Soul that asketh understanding
Only thus can ye be blest.

Through the vastness of creation,
Though your restless heart may roam,

God is all that you can long for
God is all the creatures' home.

Sending Forth:

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