Incarnation (Year A - Isaiah)

Theme Exploring the Advent of Incarnation

Isaiah 2:1-5 Preparing for the Paradoxical

When swords and plowshares interchange, know the blacksmith.

Isaiah 11:1-10 Preparing for the Offensive

Lying with the lion is easier when its caged.

Isaiah 35:1-10 Preparing for the Ordinary

Beware of losing the tree in the forest.

Isaiah 7:10-16 Preparing for the Vulnerable

If diamonds and crystal both glitter, why choose crystal?

Candle Lighting Prayers (2007)

Advent 1 - Peace

Reading:

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for peace. Peace comes not with the destruction of the tools of war, the creator flows through relationships creating unity.

(one candle is lit)

Prayer:

Creating One, may we have minds limber enough to receive your coming in that which appears paradoxical.

Advent 2 - Hope

Reading:

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for hope. Hope comes not from the absence of conflict, the sacred is revealed in the presence of the enemy.

(two candles are lit)

Prayer:

Sacred One, may we have hearts seasoned enough to receive your coming in that which appears offensive.

Advent 3 - Joy

Reading:

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for joy. Joy rarely appears with neon signs and blinding lights, the divine rests as a radiant strand in an intricate tapestry.

(three candles are lit)

Prayer:

Divine One, may we have eyes focused enough to receive your coming in that which appears ordinary.

Advent 4 - Love

Reading:

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love. Love surpasses the secure locations we would choose, the holy nests in precarious places and roots in the fragile.

(four candles are lit)

Prayer:

Holy One, may we have hands gentle enough to receive your coming in that which appears vulnerable.