

Leader:

There was one who was ready to receive him. She was a woman whose name was Mary. Mary was open to receive God's love. She had pondered the words of hope and was simple and trusting. She sang a song of thanksgiving:

Mary:

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' (Luke 1:46-55)

-source: www.stcharleschurch.org/ministry.advent-family.htm



Choral Prayer: Light of the World

Side 1: Light of the world,
Enter into the depths of our
lives.

Side 2: Come into the dark
And hidden places.

Side 1: Walk in the storehouse
Of our memories.

Side 2: Hear the hidden secrets
Of the past.

Side 1: Plumb the very depth
Of our being.

Side 2: Be present through
The silent hours,

Side 1: And bring us safely
To Your glorious light.

—D. Adam,

Power Lines: Celtic Prayers about Work

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York CDSB

Voices Of Advent



Call to Worship



Leader:

We come because we've
seen some hint of hope,
A hand outstretched,
A candle standing bravely in the dark.

All:

Our waiting is a time for memories;
For retelling the ancient stories of our
people.

Leader:

We've gathered here,
To warm our weary fingers
While we wait for something we have never
known.

All:

The road ahead leads to an unknown
territory,
A place of new life will be born.
We come to celebrate the outrageous
possibility
That God is calling forth our gifts in ways
that have already changed the world.



Leader:

We will listen to the words of three great
saints of Advent: **Isaiah, John the Baptist, and
Mary.**

Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, promised
that one would come to be the light of the
world. He said:

Isaiah:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a
great light; those who lived in a land of deep
darkness— on them light has shined." (*Isaiah*
9:2)

Leader:

And he also said:
"For a child has been born for us, a son given to
us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is
named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Ever-
lasting Father, Prince of Peace." (*Isaiah* 9:5)

Leader:

Isaiah promised that one would come who would
prepare the way of the Lord:

Isaiah:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the
LORD, make straight in the desert a highway
for our God." (*Isaiah* 40:3)

All:

What must we do to prepare the way? What
must we do to prepare for the coming of the
Lord?

Leader:

The people of God longed and prayed for
the Messiah – the Saviour, the Hope,
promised by Isaiah. They waited in hope
for 700 years. Then the voice of John
the Baptist was heard:

John:

"The one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the thong of his
sandals. I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit." (Mark 1:7-8)

All:

What must we do to prepare for his
coming?
(*pause for silence*)

Leader:

John the Baptist answered the people
and said:

John:

"In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has
two coats must share with anyone who
has none; and whoever has food must do
like wise.'" (*Luke* 3:11)

