



## The Word

### First Sunday of Advent

*Week of December 1*

#### **Call to Prayer and Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

#### **The Word of God**

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters:  
You know the time;  
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.  
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;  
the night is advanced, the day is at hand.  
Let us then throw off the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of light;  
let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,  
not in orgies and drunkenness,  
not in promiscuity and lust,  
not in rivalry and jealousy.  
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

#### **Faith Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?

**Teens:** What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

**Adults:** How is your life different when you heed the call to walk in the light and cast off the ways of darkness?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering

the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.