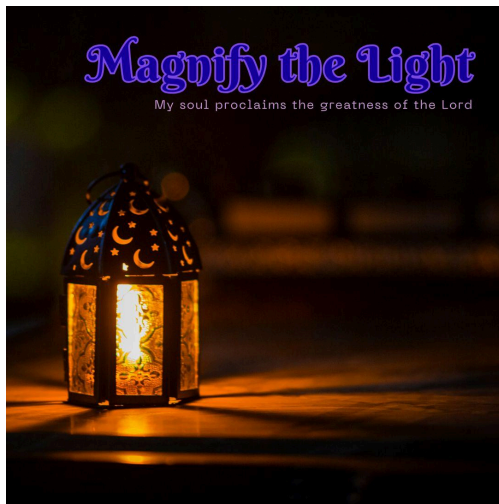




As we begin the day, we focus on our calling to live faithfully, for who knows what today holds?

Opening

God's bright glory will shine,
And everyone will see it. *Isaiah 40:52*

Prayer

O Holy One, thank you for coming to us anew this day. Prepare our hearts and reawaken our love for you as we discern your call within us. May we join with you in making level the path for all people. May we magnify the Light.
AMEN.

Praise

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

Scripture

Leader will read 1 or 2 passages from the Readings of the Day

Meditation

"To enter Advent we leave fear for faith." Sam Portaro

What fears must we release in order to level the way for ourselves and for others?

Leader may have some words for us to ponder

Affirmation

**We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged, the winged ones,
and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.**

**We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us
and who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding,
upholding us and showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.**

Prayers

In the beginning, it is dark, cool, and quiet, and we ask you:

Invite us into your presence, O Christ.

We do not know your works, Holy One, yet still we ask you:

Invite us into your presence, O Christ.

We look to the rising sun and trust that you

Invite us into your presence, O Christ.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

You are our Shepherd, and we need nothing more. We rejoice in your presence with us in all of creation. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

***Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.***

***In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and
for ever.
Amen.***

- The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

Prayer

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of renewal; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us to bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Going Out

God's bright glory will shine,
and everyone will see it.