

Advent Prayer Service

(The room is in darkness. Each person brings an unlit candle.)

LEADER: In Advent, Love opens the door between two worlds. God waits for us at its threshold and welcomes us into a new place of belonging.

Here in this place of encounter two heralds await us: John the Baptist and Mary, Mother of Jesus. They bring the good news that the Light has come into the world.

Here too we meet our own Elizabeth Ann whose Advent prayer was always to urge us to create a place of welcome for each other, and for those in need.

And here we also meet one another, Sisters and Associates, the family of Charity God loved into being.

And as Advent unfolds its mystery of unconditional love, let us now risk our own inward journey into the heart of our God.

SONG: The Magnificat - Holy Is God's Name (John Michael Talbot) or another version of your choice

(As the song is being sung, the Christ candle is lit.)

READER 1: I, John, prophet and martyr, was sent by God to reveal the light of truth coming into the world, Jesus, the Christ. *(A small candle is lit from the Christ candle.)*

SUNG REFRAIN: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered today.

READER 2: I, Mary, woman of destiny, was asked by God to birth the light of justice coming into the world, Jesus, the Christ. *(A small candle is lit from the Christ candle.)*

SUNG REFRAIN: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered today.

READER 1: Elizabeth Ann, Mother of many daughters, was chosen by God to radiate the light of a new face of charity, all for the love of Jesus, the Christ. *(A small candle is lit from the Christ candle.)*

SUNG REFRAIN: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered today.

READER 2: We, Sisters of Charity and Associates, faith-filled women and men of the Church, are called by God to gift the world with the new light of Charity, Jesus, the Christ. *(A small candle is lit from the Christ candle.)*

SUNG REFRAIN: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered today.

READER 1: *(As the Christ candle is lifted before all)* I, the Christ of God, am the light of the world. Come, those who would not walk in darkness, follow me. Redeem this time for the people of all time.

Quiet reflection

Close by singing again Magnificat - Holy Is God's Name

—Prepared by Sr. Mary McCormick, SC