



## Advent Meditation: Christmas Eve The Geography of Waiting

Creative Agape

*“The question is not, ‘How am I to love God,’ but ‘How am I to let myself be loved by God?’”* Henry Nouwen

### Invocation

Creator God, on this night we wait in the stable with a young family. We have travelled through the geography of Advent and prepared our homes and our hearts for you. On this night we greet you as your ultimate creation – Emmanuel, God-with-us, Jesus. Come to us. Find us. Be with us. We ask for your blessing on this time.

### Confession

You know us, Lord. Even on this night that we have anticipated for weeks, it’s hard to keep our attention here with you. Our minds wander and jump to the festivities ahead. There are things we have done that we are not proud of and tons of things left undone that would have helped create a better world. This year, Lord, come close and capture our attention, create in us a vivid image of the crazy idea that God is born to the poorest of poor. Create in us the desire to pass our blessings forward. Remind us that tonight you actually do come to us.

### Isaiah 9:2

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.

### Psalms 96: 1-3

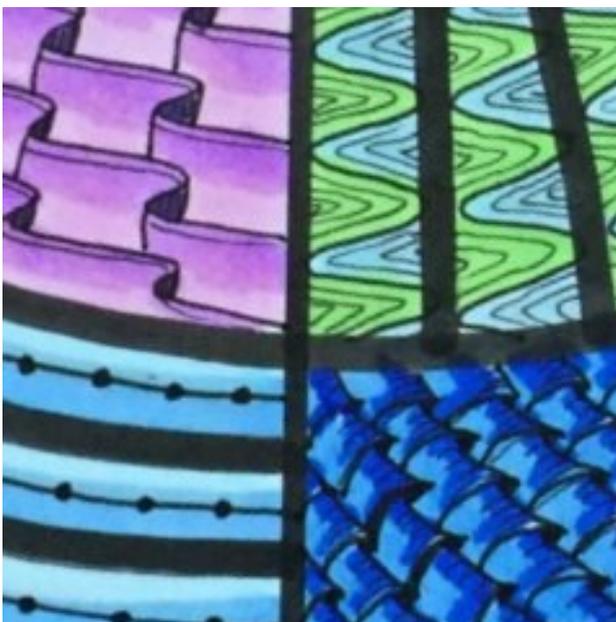
O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

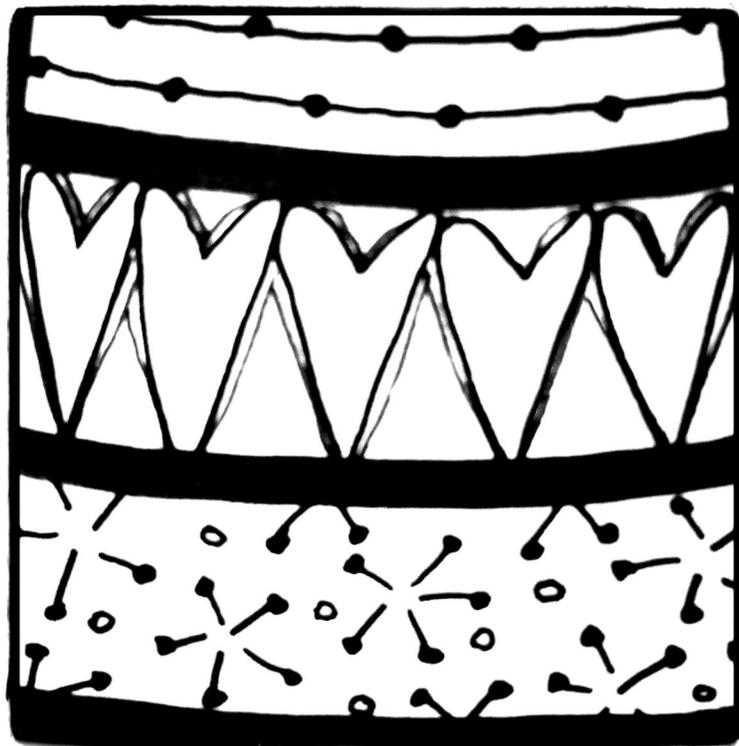
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. actually do come to us.

### Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house



and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



### Prayer

**Leader:** Creator God, help us to share in your creative process. Give us the creativity to find ways to care for the world you made.

**People:** Creative Agape come find us.

**Leader:** Christ, remind us that you were poor and without a room when you came to live among us. Help us to create ways to welcome strangers, no matter what they look like.

**People:** Creative Agape come find us.

**Leader:** Spirit, create in us the excitement and enthusiasm and energy to work with you to make all of God's children feel loved.

**People:** Creative Agape come find us.

### A time to be still

You are invited into a time of inner stillness.

Breathe deeply.

Sit with the image of Creative Agape as you fill it with color.

Let God's creative love find you

### A blessing

May God bless us with the creativity to feed the hungry.

May God bless us with the creativity to welcome the stranger.

May God bless us with the creativity to comfort the lonely.

Tonight God's Creative Love has found us.