

## Advent Meditation: Week 2

### The Geography of Waiting

Let Courage find me. Let Courage find you. Let Courage find us.

*"The question is not, 'How am I to love God,' but 'How am I to let myself be loved by God?'" Henri Nouwen*

#### Invocation

Lord God, navigating this Advent season can get scary when we try to do it alone. We all need your courage to find us.

Come to us. Find us. Be with us. We ask for your blessing on this time. Fill us with your courage that this Advent we will make the time to let you find us, let you come to us.

#### Confession

The pressure is on, Lord. Some of us are running from concert to party to recital to ballet and we can hardly catch our breath. Some of us are dreading the parties with food and alcohol and cigarettes where we can least resist them. Some of us are just plain angry that this time of year is filled with such nonsense and sentimentality when we have no one to share it with. Some of us don't want to come out at all for fear of what might happen.

This year, Lord, teach us to wait for you and let you come to us. Let Courage find us and give us strength to smile at a stranger. Let Courage find us and give us strength to say no. Let Courage find us and give us strength to reach out and help someone. Let Courage find us and give us strength to walk in peace.

#### Psalm - Luke 1:68-75

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and  
redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for  
us in the house of his servant David.

#### Philippians 1:3-6

I thank my God every time I remember you,  
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers  
for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel  
from the first day until now. I am confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work among you will  
bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.



### Luke 3:3-6

(John) went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”



### Prayer

**Leader:** Creator God, we are helpless without you. We pray that you will find our minds open to you.

**People:** Courage come find us.

**Leader:** Christ, we don't have the courage to speak out in defense of people who are wrongly treated or unjustly accused. We pray that you will use our voices and our votes and all our skills to stand with those who need our voices.

**People:** Courage come find us.

**Leader:** Spirit, we don't have the hutzpah to get out and prepare the way for you. We are afraid to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger. We pray that you will use our hands and our feet to do the work and give the credit to you.

**People:** Courage come find us.

### A time to be still

You are invited into a time of inner stillness.

Breathe deeply.

Sit with the image of Courage as you fill it with color.

Let Courage find you.

### A blessing

May God bless us with hectic schedules so we rely on God's strong peace.

May God bless us with destructive temptations so we rely on God's strong help.

May God bless us with angry relatives so we rely on God's strong love.

May Courage find us.