

Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2024

(The first red candle is lit)

As we leave our second advent candle, the candle for peace, unlit,

We remember those caught up in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

We hear with sadness that celebrations of Christmas in the place of the Saviour's birth will be subdued this year and we pray for all who are suffering in the Holy Land.

But still,

We thank you God for the peace you give.

As we prepare for Christmas time

Light of the world, shine on us.

In our lives of confusion and stress
Bring peace to our hearts.
To all the people who don't know you,
Light of the world, shine through us.

In this world of pain and darkness
Help us to share the peace you give.
In our service here today, and in our lives,
Light of the world, light the way.



THE
JOURNEY
to Bethlehem



The prophet Isaiah brings the word of the Lord:
'Comfort, comfort my people, says your God'. Let
us pray for God's comfort.

Please join in the response on screen.

Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

God you are our maker and our Good Shepherd
Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

Where there is distress or sadness among us
Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

Where illness, grief or trouble diminishes our life
and saps us of hope
Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

When our world changes and there is uncertainty
about the future
Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

In both our willingness to serve and in our
reluctance
Comfort your people
and make us ready for your coming

Across our towns and villages and within our families

Comfort your people

and make us ready for your coming

That we may comfort others and be signposts to your coming in manger and in glory.

Comfort your people

and make us ready for your coming

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and in the power of the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

Amen

Communion



In this waiting season –
in a time between times
when living seems restricted

We gather to remember one
who embraced constraint
while waiting for birth.



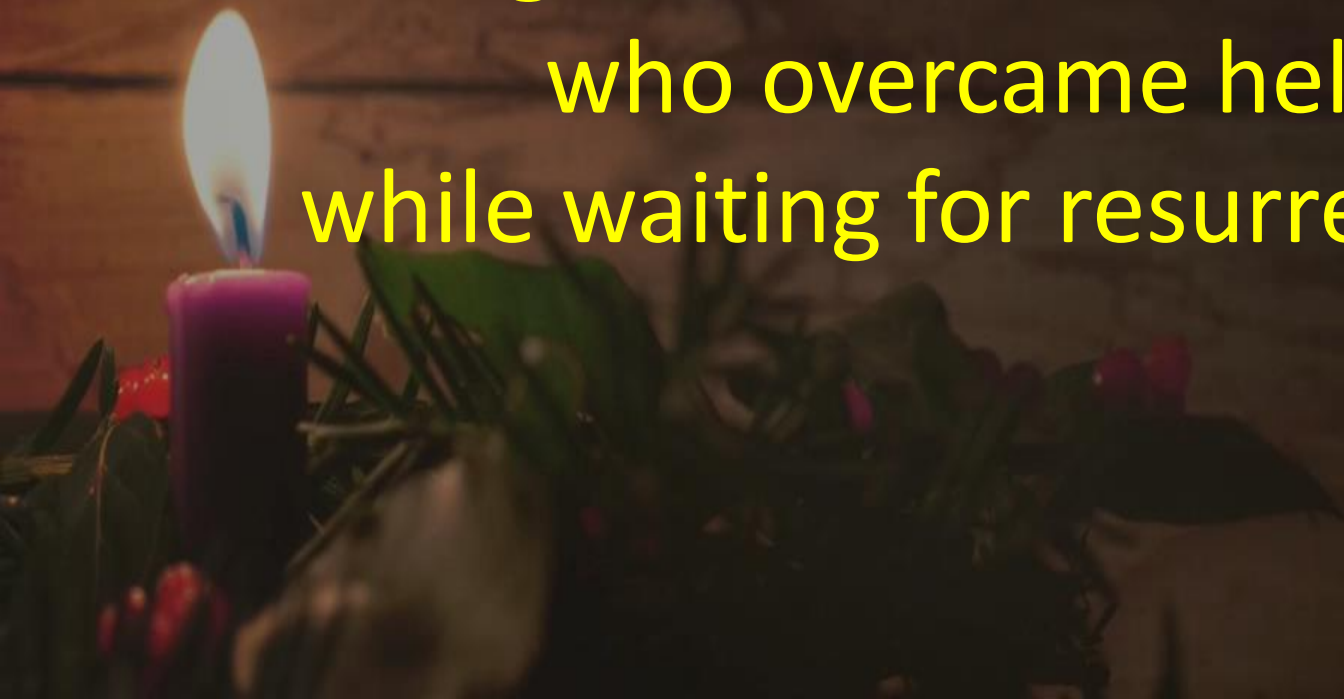
In this waiting season –
in a time between times
when joy seems curtailed

We gather to remember one
who shared a feast
while waiting for death.



In this waiting season –
in a time between times
when action seems suspended

We gather to remember one
who overcame hell
while waiting for resurrection.



This is the table of Emmanuel –
a place where bread and wine remind us
how to live and love
as those who inhabit God's time,
and work to build His Kingdom.

A place where we recognise
that the one for whom we wait
is also the one who is already,
and always, here with us.



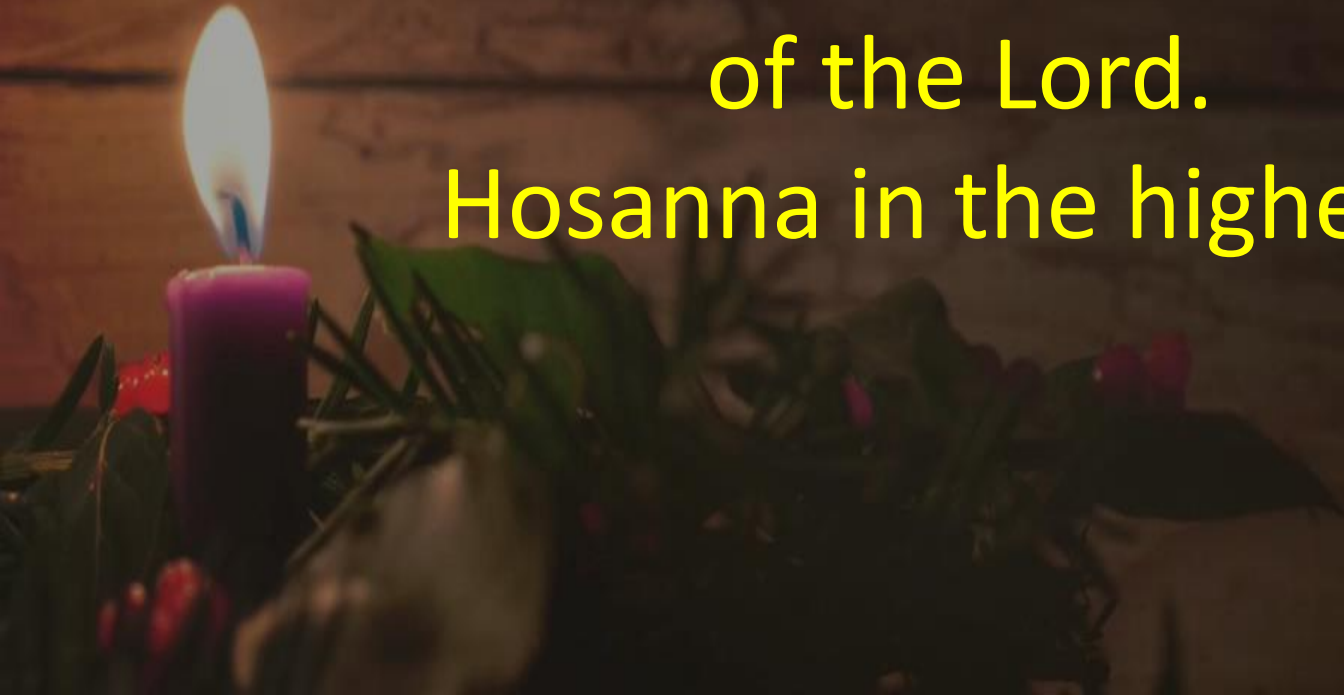
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and
might,

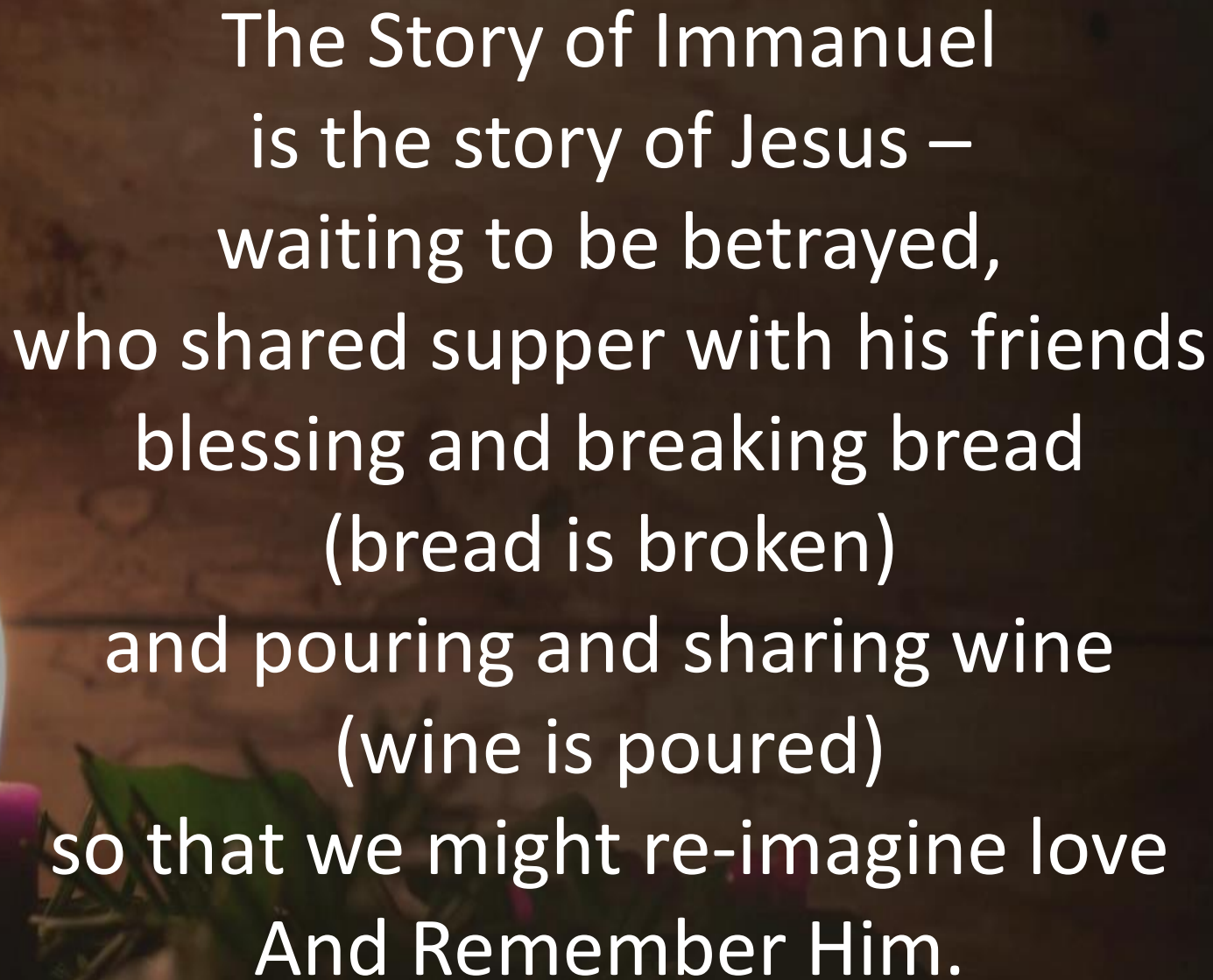
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

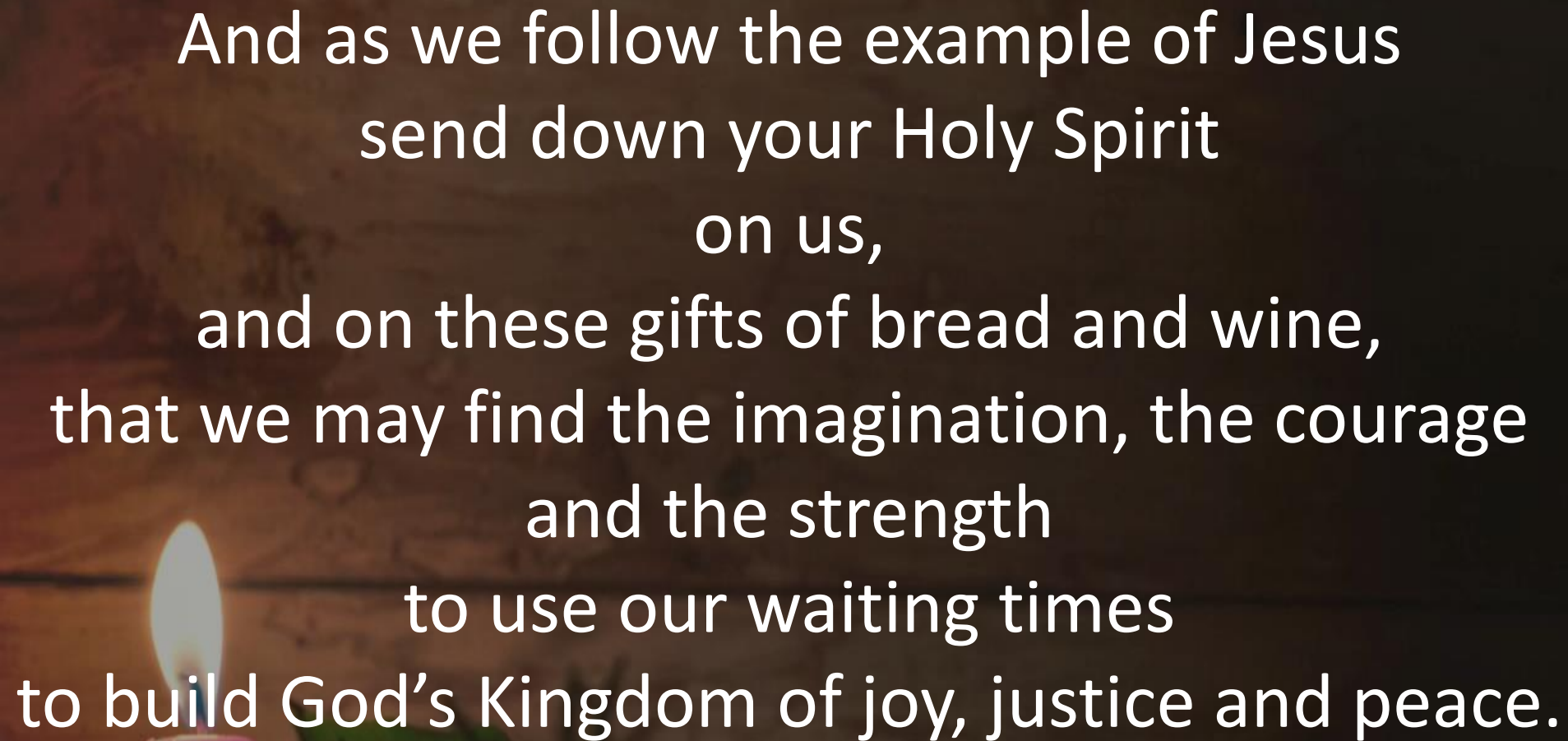
Blessed is the one that comes in the name
of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

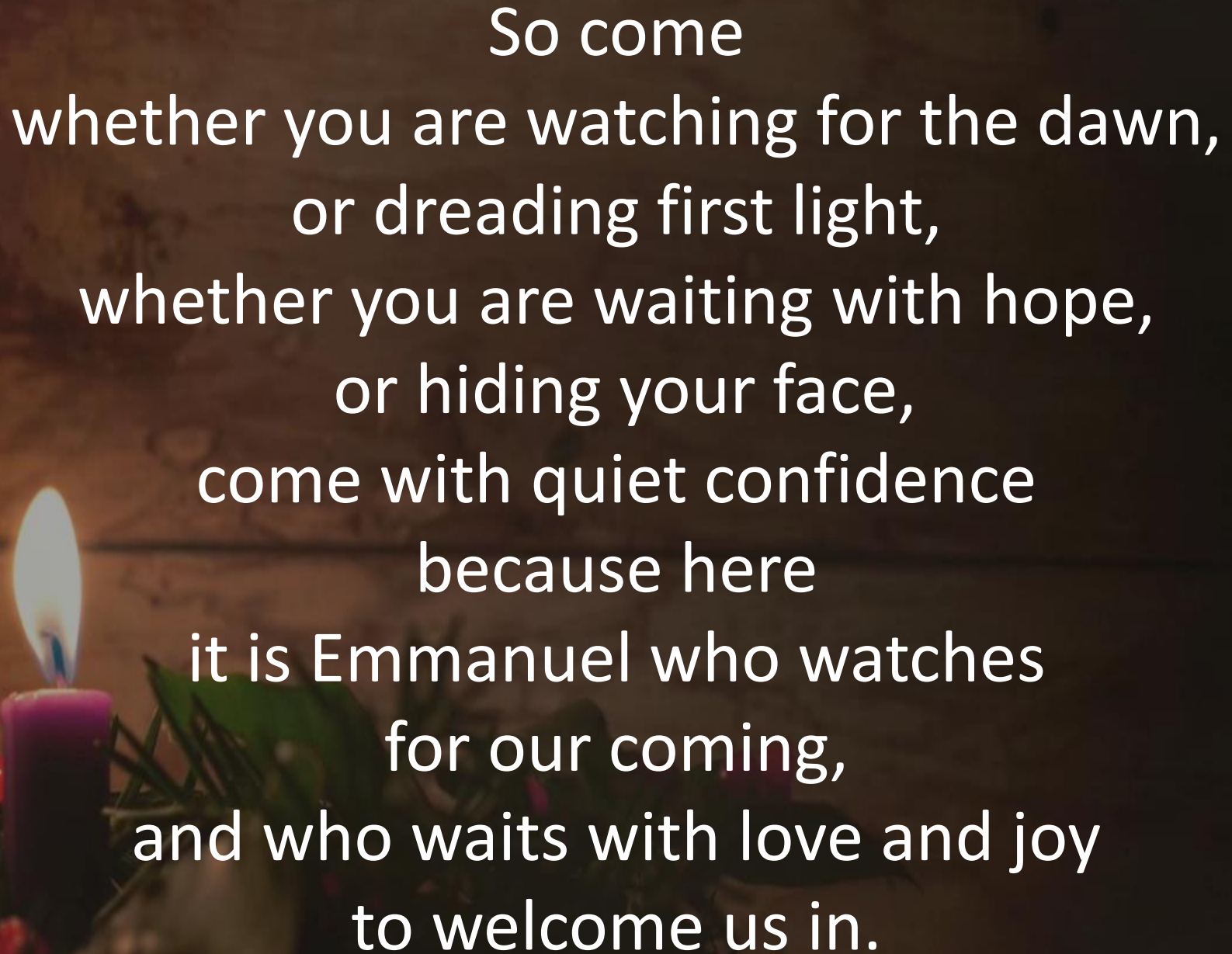




The Story of Immanuel
is the story of Jesus –
waiting to be betrayed,
who shared supper with his friends
blessing and breaking bread
(bread is broken)
and pouring and sharing wine
(wine is poured)
so that we might re-imagine love
And Remember Him.



And as we follow the example of Jesus
send down your Holy Spirit
on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that we may find the imagination, the courage
and the strength
to use our waiting times
to build God's Kingdom of joy, justice and peace.

A lit purple candle with a bright flame is positioned in the lower-left foreground. It is surrounded by greenery and small red berries. The background is a dark, textured wall.

So come
whether you are watching for the dawn,
or dreading first light,
whether you are waiting with hope,
or hiding your face,
come with quiet confidence
because here
it is Emmanuel who watches
for our coming,
and who waits with love and joy
to welcome us in.

Sharing the bread and wine

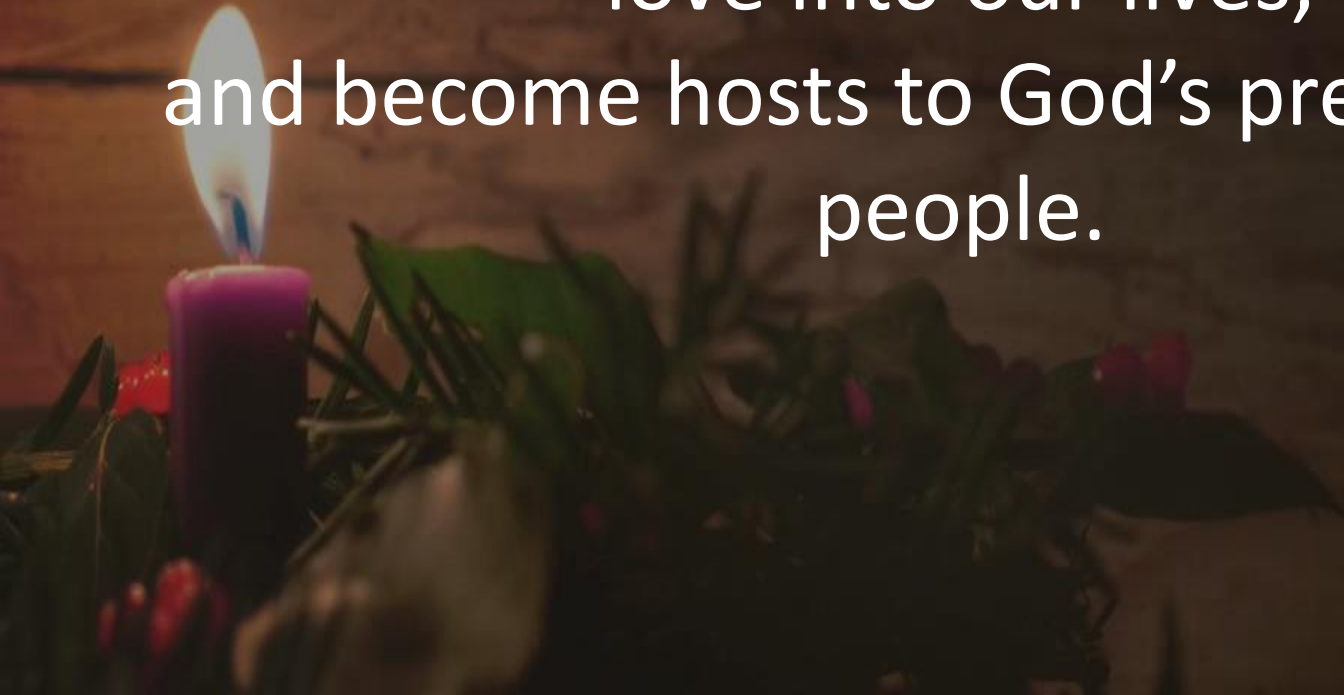


At this table, Christ is the host,
welcoming all who hunger.

At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day
and always,

that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and
love into our lives,

and become hosts to God's presence and
people.



God of Love, guide us to the stables of our
world,
where the lonely and longing gather.
Lead us to the mangers of our time,
where hope and renewal are born again.
Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

