PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Leader: We pause during this holy season of Advent, the season of going toward the birth of Christ.

All: As we renew the special meaning of the Advent season, the season of going toward new hope and eternal life.

Leader: Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Lord.

All: Let us also honor his birth by adorning our provincial house for the coming of the Lord.

Leader: Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to the glory of God and the manifestation of his love through his Son, Jesus Christ.

All: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Leader: This tree is a blessing of our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of god. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

Leader: Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus:

Reader: But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us know pray for God’s blessing upon all who are gathered around this tree.

Leader: Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May your blessing be upon all who are gathered here, on all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(The lights of the Christmas tree are now illumined.)

Leader: Let us go forth and adorn our home for the coming of the Lord.

All Sing: Verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O Come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our Spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.