



Special Thanks

This Litany was a collaborative effort by the Revs. Randy Mayer and Delle McCormick. BorderLinks is an organization that envisions a world in which people, within and across social borders, respect and care for each other, value and celebrate differences, and build healthy and just communities where everyone has equal opportunity for a full and dignified life.

BorderLinks' Advent Litany

First Sunday of Advent

Reader: There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. . . 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. . . For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian . . . For a child has been born for us . . . named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will establish and uphold peace with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2-6)

Reader: Today we remember those who live on the border-

lands of our world. Those who live life on the margins. May we open our hearts and minds to the light that comes through these places of struggle. It is on the margins that hope is born and Christ's light shines bright.

People: Today we give thanks for the salvation and light that comes through struggle, light that can inspire and change the world.

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle that symbolizes hope in the borderlands and margins. May it rekindle our faith and remind us of Christ's tender mercy and fierce compassion. (*Light a purple candle.*)

Hymn: Sing First Verse of "Toda La Tierra" ("All Earth Is Waiting").

Second Sunday of Advent

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God 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" (Luke 2:8-10)



Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast in their vigilance on behalf of others. Isolated and far from the comforts of home, doing jobs that few want to do. Yet God saw them, valued them, and chose them alone to reveal the Good News.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherdesses among us, forgotten and persecuted, who accompany the lost and wounded, seeking shelter, food, dignified work. While we

overlook them, God calls upon them to show us the way.

Reader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this second candle that symbolizes the shepherds, caregivers, advocates, defenders of life. May it calm and accompany us through our fears and embolden us to reveal the Good News to the world. (*Light two purple candles.*)

Hymn: Sing 2nd verse of “Toda la Tierra” (“All Earth Is Waiting”).

Third Sunday of Advent

Reader: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. (Isaiah 35:1-2a, 6b-7)

Reader: Today, we remember the land. Land exploited, eroded, polluted. Out-of-sight, out-of-mind land, desecrated by wars and walls, by military and economic policies that despoil and displace. We remember those in borderlands, in the margins, held back by barriers of ignorance,

contempt, and greed. May we open our tables to them and recognize them as revealers of truth.

People: Today, we give thanks for those witnesses in the desert who will not stay silent. They are a voice in solidarity with those displaced, deported, and denounced that cries out, “Food! Education! Dignity! Peace! Justice!”

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of gladness, abundance and joy for all of God’s creation! May it show a way around the walls that divide God’s kingdom. (*Light three purple candles*)

Hymn: Sing 3rd verse of “Toda la Tierra” (“All Earth Is Waiting”).



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reader: “And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Most High, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name.’” (Luke 1: 46-49)

Reader: Today we remember Mary, poor, pregnant, worried, and waiting. Mary, God-bearer to all who watch and wait and weep, she speaks and acts despite her fear. Hope for the world grows in her womb. Taught to be silent, she boldly proclaims God’s mercy and justice to rich and poor.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys, men and women who have no

choice but to leave their home and land, witnesses to the Good News, who bridge the walls of indifference, intolerance, and insecurity, challenging our stereotypes, pushing past our prejudices. Humble people, they are chosen to build bridges with their bodies across distance and difference and beckon us to do the same.

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, God-bearer, rule-breaker, life-giver. (*Light two purple candles, the rose candle, and the last purple candle.*)

Hymn: Sing 4th verse of “Toda la Tierra” (“All Earth Is Waiting”).

Christmas Eve/Day Litany

Reader: “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.” (Luke 2:6-7)

Reader: Today, we remember the Stranger who came in the name of peace and justice. We remember those who come from afar to reveal to us Jesus’ love, tender mercy and fierce compassion. We gather on the margins, in the fertile darkness of not-knowing, in the wilderness of despair and longing, in awe of the light that shines through fear and brings new life to all.

People: We give thanks that we can gather close in the manger with the lost,

left-behind, displaced, deported, and disappeared. They have stories to tell us, ways to show us, life to share with us. O God, Open our minds and hearts that we might see you in all God’s people and build bridges where there are walls, bringing hope where there is despair, and new life to all of God’s children.

Reader: On this day, we light the Christ candle for the Child-Prophet, Defender of Life, Servant-Leader. (*Light Christ candle.*)

May we know God’s peace, here, now! (*Light all candles.*) **Hymn:** Sing all 4 verses of “Toda la Tierra” (“All Earth Is Waiting”).

