

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The wilderness and dry land
will be glad; the desert
shall rejoice and blossom.

- Isaiah 35:1

December 14, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to the new Church Year—the Year of Matthew!

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

✝ GATHERING ✝

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ACS – *All Creation Sings*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please follow the prompts of the leader as we sing the song.*

O God, We Call

ACS #1075

O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.

ADVENT LITANY *Please rise in body or spirit*

P O God: for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation,

C We give you thanks.

A For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

C We give you thanks.

P For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion,

C We give you thanks.

A For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us,
and showing us how to serve,

C We give you thanks.

P As Advent dawns, we celebrate the presence of your love
deep within us and at the heart of life.

C Emmanuel—God is with us.

GATHERING HYMN

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257, vs. 5-6

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Catey Escobar

L Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen

The second Advent candle is lit.

KYRIE

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
Ky-ri - e e - le - e - le - i - son.
Ga - thered by your love, we pray for hea - ling and hope. Lord.
give us peace, make us one, sal - va - tion come.
From your per - fect love, bring your per - fect reign to
ev' - ry heart, ev' - ry home; let love be known.
Lord our God have mer - cy, Je - sus Christ have mer - cy,
Save us by your mer - cy Lord. _____

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

Helen Hundley

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

God will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

⁷ 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.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;\

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

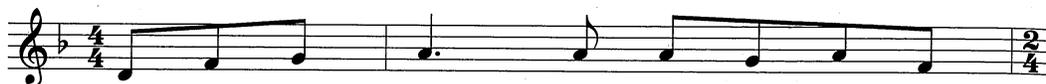
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 95

The congregation joins on each refrain:



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness



waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Cantor: Emmanuel, the reign of God among us

Barbara Jones

We long to see and taste your Jubilee

Unbind our lives and set our minds at peace *Refrain*

O Holy Wisdom fill us with your knowledge

That we may follow on the path you show

Teach us to live as one with all creation *Refrain*

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

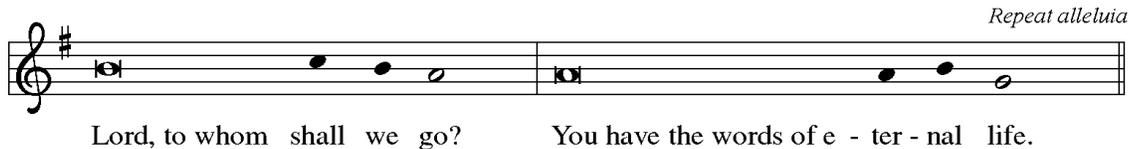
⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.*

ELW #168



CHOIR ANTHEM

Light of Hope, Light of Peace

Mark Patterson

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

Time for Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please rise in body or spirit

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW #715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From the Iona Community

P With the whole church,

C We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

P With people everywhere,
 C **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
 planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**
 P With all creation,
 C **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God,
 forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heidi Eilers

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A God of grace,
 C **hear our prayer.**

When all petitions have been offered:

P Draw us near, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
 C **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C **And also with you.** *We share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures in the NW Washington Synod, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this [QR CODE](#). Whatever size, your gift makes difference!



OFFERTORY

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690

1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
 2 What good and blessing you bestow are
 emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
 free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
 give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
 weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Nourishing God,

C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: May God be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P Truly it is right and joyous to offer thanks and praise to our gracious God in all places and in all circumstances of life, but especially so on this day as we anticipate the coming of our Savior, the light which can never be extinguished. And so with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all the saints and angels in heaven and on earth, we raise our voices with a never-ending hymn of praise!

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. _____

God of po - wer and might. _____

Hea - ven and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho san na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is the
 one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san na in the high est. Ho -
 san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the
 high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Gracious God of life and light our hearts are full of gratitude,
 for in the beginning you loved us into life and gathered us to your heart.
 You called us your people and called us back again when we were exiled far from you.
 Through every generation when your people became captive
 to darkness and despair, you called prophets and wise ones
 to illumine the way back to you.
 Promising that your light would never be extinguished...this cup is the new covenant in
 my blood, poured out for you for all people for forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.
- C** **We remember, O God, and with this bread and cup we feast at your table
 in joyful anticipation of that day when all creation will find its home in you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

- P** Trusting in the One who made his home with us, we pray the prayer of Jesus:
- C** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is life—God is with us. Come receive what God has promised.
C Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

CALL US HOME

God, Cre - a - tor, _____ call us home. God, Christ
Je - sus, _____ call us home. _____ God, Ho - ly Spi - rit, _____ call us
home. God, we're long - ing _____ to come home. home.

COMMUNION HYMN *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* ACS #1078

Refrain — All

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All

1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
 deep - est night. We call you; we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P May the God who comes among us in Jesus + grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Wait for Emmanuel.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

*In consideration for those who choose to remain for the postlude,
those who depart are invited to do so quietly.*



CONTACT INFORMATION

8316 39 th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98136	206-935-1962
Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number	206-930-3172
Pastor Erik Kindem's e-mail	pastor@peacelutheranseattle.org
Peace Lutheran web page:	www.peacelutheranseattle.org
Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.	office@peacelutheranseattle.org
Church Office hours:	Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director	206-427-6496
Jon Lackey, Minister of Music	Music@peacelutheranseattle.org
Find us on  at People of Peace Lutheran	

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Heidi Eilers
Acolyte	Jasmine Troupe
Advent Reader	Catey Escobar
Lector	Helen Hundley
Cantor	Barbara Jones
Children's Message	Helen Hundley
Greeters	Nancy Hauger, Jean Sides
Ushers	David Kehle, Kristin Gimelli Hemme
Altar Care	Kathleen Keyes
Communion Assistants	Kathleen Keyes, Chris Kindem
Coffee Server	Helen Hundley, Kimberly Simmons
Counters	Kathleen Keyes, Kristin Gimelli Hemme
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Matthew Toso
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

*Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region,
and internationally through the ELCA!*

Offering Income received December 2025

12/07/25	\$ 3,065.00
Electronic	\$ 4,212.30
Total	\$ 7,277.30

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Thrifting for the holidays is a great way to find unique decorations and gifts sustainably and affordably. Look for holiday decor like ornaments, platters, and wreaths, or use your finds to create your own decor by repurposing items like vintage books, frames, or brass candlesticks. Secondhand accessories, artwork, vases, and unique books all make great gifts.

Pray for Creation: While waiting for the restoration of all creation, we ask God to give us the resolve to live with increasing care for our ecosystem.

OUR SISTER DONNA HEILAND NEEDS A PLACE TO STAY WHILE HER HOUSE IS BEING REPAIRED AFTER A FIRE

"I need a place for me and my cat to live for a short time. [Up to 3 months] I can pay rent. I am on Social Security and I get \$800.00 a month. My cat CasperSnowPaws is a Diabetic and needs his insulin shots every 12 hours and his insulin needs to be cold or in a refrigerator he also has other medications to take as well." Donna has severe asthma and other health conditions that necessitate her sleeping indoors. She has a room in a residence inn through Christmas. [Gifts to the Agape Fund](#) can help us accompany Donna through this unexpected and challenging time.

- Donna Heiland 206/841-8448

If you'd like to learn more about Donna's need and how you can help, call Donna or the Church Office.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE!

As the final month of the calendar year begins, we mark the Advent season and the beginning of a new church year—Year A, the year of Matthew. The Advent/Christmas Devotional is available to accompany you on the journey through Advent and the Christmas Season. These devotions explore the Sunday scripture readings for Advent and Christmas, as well as for the festival days and commemorations in the Advent and Christmas seasons. The writers bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to these texts and offer the voices of other witnesses. The devotional also provides household blessings and prayers (see pages 81-93) to enrich your preparations and celebrations during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Pick yours up today!

WEDNESDAY EVENING GATHERINGS IN ADVENT

The Peace Worship Planning Team invites you to ADVENT WEDNESDAY EVENINGS **December 17** at the home of Paul and Boots Winterstein: soup supper @ 6pm followed by Evening Prayer @ 7 pm. Come for one or both! 8108 11th Ave SW, Seattle (SE corner of 11th Ave SW and SW Elmgrove in Highland Park). Plenty of parking. Questions? call 206-762-1362 or email bandpwinterstein@gmail.com.

HALLMARK CHANNEL AND THRIVENT MOVIE 12/19 6PM

Get ready to cozy up with a little Thrivent magic—because this holiday season, we're hitting the small screen. Thrivent will be featured in the all new Hallmark original movie *Tidings for the Season*, a heartwarming story that celebrates community and the joy of giving back. There will be a showing at **Peace 12/19 at 6pm. Food and beverages provided by Thrivent.**

After the movie we will pack winter care packages for our neighbors in need. If you would like to help contribute to the packages consider bringing any of the following: chewy granola bars, tuna packets, protein bars, chap stick, cough drops, or snack crackers. These items will be added to bags with a warm hat, gloves, wool socks, hand warmers, and small packets of pain reliever purchased through a Thrivent Action Team grant.

CHIEF SEALTH HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS 12/18

On Thursday, December 18th, 7:00pm the Chief Sealth High will present:

WINTER SEALTHSTICE: A Performing Arts Celebration! The Symphonic Band, Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Drama are all included in this performance! Suggested donation: \$10 or what you will. Come enjoy a wonderful concert, and support the Chief Sealth's performing arts students!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 4PM

At Gethsemane Lutheran Church (911 Stewart Street, Seattle) and via **Livestream**

(<https://www.urbanfaith.org/service-of-remembrance>) **We will gather for a time to remember, honor, and pray for those who have died on the streets or as a result of being homeless.** Contact Pr. Kristy Daniels at PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org or (206) 474-1007 for more information or to add names to the list.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Georgia Apodoca; Marlen Boivin; Deric Bevier; Jan Burt; Cindy Collie; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Jeffrey Epley; Pio Escame; Stephen Fuller; Barb G.; Jon Gault; Nick Griffin; Donna Heiland; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Mel Jacob; Peter Kalen; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; John Lindsay; Evelyn Martinez; Carol Mikesell; Katrina Moore; Ginger Nehrbass; Kathy Peters; Melissa Peterson; Michelle Pierce; David Porch; Wes Price; Kelly Renfro; Sarah; Robert Champain; Aaden Smith; Nancy Spannaus; Sarah Taylor; Benjamin Toso; Tracy and Ralph; Kristy W.; Angela Walker; Pam Webber; Megan Webber; Jeannette Whitworth; Willy; Paul Winterstein.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Inta Zagars

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.



As a Christian community, we recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism. We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

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Advent Litany The Iona Community.

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