

Groups of the Spirit (GOTS) | Gathering Prayer | A Prayer for Advent

Adapted from the GOTS mission and Kaleidoscope Institute (Eric Law) resources

Prayer Intentions:

- Weave God into the mix, given GOTS are church-sponsored gatherings ☺
- Honor our Mission Covenant Goals of supporting faith formation across all ages and stages, deepening our welcome (of our diverse journeys of faith), building authentic relationships across similarities and differences, and to create a shared experience across the various GOTS.

Instructions:

1. Choose a prayer leader to lead this prayer, near the beginning of your time together.
2. If you don't have copies for everyone, find it online at <http://saintjudes.org/groups-spirit-gots>
3. All are invited to share during in the "circle payer" section, and of course, each may "pass for now" or "pass" all together!

Prayer Leader:

Let us pray, opening with this portion of Psalm 77 (from *Psalms for Praying*):

"I call to mind the closeness of my Friend; yes, I remember the joy of the Beloved's presence. I contemplate in the Silence, recalling how You led me along the Way; For your Way, O Beloved, is holy. There is no other like You! You are the One who will bring us to wholeness, You manifest your Love to all who call upon You..."

We pause in this moment together to call upon God and to name those areas of our own lives where we are longing for wholeness, where we are longing for God's comfort and joy:

Circle prayer:

Going around the circle, each are invited to share in a word or phrase one area of your own life in which you are praying for more comfort or joy this Advent. You may "pass for now" and we will return to you before continuing or you may "pass" altogether. After all have had an opportunity to share, then close with...

All: God of comfort and joy, the divine thread to which we cling, make our hearts ready for your coming anew. Restore us, show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. All this we pray, in the name of the One who comes, our Savior Jesus the Christ. *Amen.*