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|  | A close up of a tree  Description automatically generated  **Celtic liturgy for Advent** |

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| **Opening Responses** | |
| Reader | Days of heavy clouds stifling the sunlight the world burdened by greyness and gloom |
| ALL | OPEN OUR EYES, LORDTO THE COMING OF YOUR LIGHT LIFTING THE BURDEN OF DARKNESS FROM OUR LIVES. |
| Reader | Chillness that seeps deep into bones hearts and spirits rigid with frost-hardness souls wrapped up against coldness and loneliness. |
| ALL | OPEN OUR SOULS, LORD,TO THE WARMTH OF YOUR COMING MELTING THE HARDNESS THAT KEEPS US FROM YOUAND FROM EACH OTHER. |
| Reader | Trees - branches bare against the steel skies stems crumpled under weight of frost - weight of snow last year’s leaves - blackened and slippery underfoot - nature oppressed by wintriness - yet resting - awaiting rebirth. |
| ALL | CHERISH OUR HEARTS, LORD OPPRESSED BY WINTRINESS - ASSURE US OF YOUR COMING  OF YOUR CALL TO NEW LIFE. |
| **Scripture Reading-**from the Gospel of the Day or another of your choosing | |
| *Silence is kept for reflection* | |
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| **Litany of Praise** | |
| Reader | Gathering in this place where heaven and earth whisper greeting; In this place where the High King of Heaven comes to meet us; In the soft darkness of this moment, we kindle lights of hope for the world. We join with the saints who have lived and loved this place to give glory and praise to God; |
| *At this point, we are invited to light a candle of Hope.* | |
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| **Silence** |  |
| *During the Silence, you may like to gaze at the candle - or simply enjoy the peace and calm of the Prayer.* | |
| **Intercessions**  - we pray from our hearts | |
| **Closing Responses** | |
| Reader | We take the light of our prayer into the world |
| ALL | TO PRAY FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PRAY; TO OFFER OURSELVES AS ANSWERS TO PRAYER. |
| Reader | We take the light of our compassion into the world: |
| ALL | TO COME ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING ANGUISH OF HEART ANGUISH OF MIND AND BE AS CHRIST FOR THEM. |
| Reader | We take the light of God's power into the world: |
| ALL | GOD'S POWER MADE PERFECT IN POWERLESSNESS STRENGTH MADE KNOWN IN WEAKNESS LIFE MADE KNOWN IN DYING. |
| Reader | God enters the hearts of all who pray - and feel they are not heard suffers their pain - their humiliation - carries the burdens of the world and dies that we might live  May our God bless us |
| ALL | THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT |
| Reader | And until we meet again |
| ALL | MAY GOD HOLD US IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND. AMEN |