CFC Advent Prayer Service

**Leader**: Advent is the time we are reminded that our God draws near. Long ago God came as one of us. God still comes as Spirit, as Word, as bread and wine, and in each one of us when we reach out to those in need. Believing in a God who draws near to us, we wait; we hope and we work for a more just, loving and peaceful world. As we make this Advent journey we invite God to come again and again so that our waiting, our hoping and our working may give way to the fulfillment of God’s promise to come in glory.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**: As we light the Advent wreath, we bring to mind all the children of God who wait. We bring to mind those who are hungry, and we ask that we take more of a role of feeding those who hunger so that all may partake of the banquet. We bring to mind those who have no home, and ask that we may help them through our friendship and our resources. We bring to mind those who long to be treated with dignity, and we ask that we may respect every individual we encounter, in our words and in our deeds.

“What came to be through God was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” -John 1:4-5

**All:** God, You are the Most High Lord of all,  
you have a preference  
for people who are small and humble  
and who rely on You for everything.  
You chose Mary, the young girl from Nazareth  
to become the mother of your Son, Jesus.

You also chose St. Teresa,

a humble nun from Calcutta to minister to the

most lowly of the streets.

You choose us to continue the work of your

servants Mary and Teresa.

Through your Holy Spirit  
make us aware of the poverty of our hearts  
that we may be open to you and welcome you.  
Help us to be ready, like Mary and Teresa, to serve you and  
rely on You for everything.  
Come to us and give Yourself to us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**