

Today is the first Sunday of Advent – the beginning of a liturgical season that calls us to wake up and stay awake, to live in the moment and notice the movement of God in our lives.

Today and for the next three Sundays of Advent, we will offer a reflective beginning to our liturgies. This Call to Worship will be used as a welcome and as a call to enter the silence of our hearts. Silence is the place from which we notice God alive and active in our lives. Our world is full of noise, and busyness, and darkness that seeps into our consciousness and drowns out the small voice of God's love and faithfulness. Let us begin this practice of meditative silence so that we can attune ourselves to God's voice....

MUSIC

Enter into the meditation by becoming aware of your breathing, not changing it, just noticing it....closing your eyes if you are comfortable....being aware of where you are, in this sacred space, with this community of faith-filled people.....using your imagination and your senses to become more awake to God's presence....here and now....seeing, really seeing yourself in the heart of God ... being fashioned anew...slowly, gently...into the image of God's love...of God's peace...knowing that you are never separate or alone but always held in this warm embrace of our Loving God..... Let us take a moment of communal silence to hold this image, this reality, in our hearts....

May this Advent be a time of your waking up to the faithfulness of Emmanuel - God-with-us.