***ORDER FOR BAPTIST MINISTRY***

**Advent — Coming Lord**

**An Alternative and Communal Daily Office**

**Becoming Present to God:**

Stand

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Just when we thought

the story had been told;

**rumours surface**

**and disturb the world.**

Just when we thought

your kingdom was mapped;

**prophets speak**

**and boundaries are redrawn.**

Just when we thought

it time to take it easy;

**a Baptist roars**

**and wildness is let loose**.

Just when we thought

the future was secure;

**a virgin conceives**

**impossible, but real.**

**Come Lord, come**

**here and now**

**among your waiting people.**

**Celebrating the Presence of God**

Sit

Cosmic God, beyond time and space,

yet within history and our world

**We look for signs of your coming.**

Revolutionary God, whose voice was heard

through the prophets of old, upsetting our balance,

**We listen for signs of your coming.**

Vulnerable God, revealing yourself in human form,

whose touch brings love, grace and peace

**We long for signs of your coming**

Migrant God, pitching your tent in our neighbourhood,

and journeying with us in our exile

**We search for signs of your coming**

Adventurous God,

calling us to be partners in your new creation

**We welcome every sign of your coming.**

**Acknowledging our Humanity**

Kneel, holding the Daily Office

God of grace

Your favour rested on Mary

**and rests on us**

Formed life within Mary

**Forms life within us**

Dazzled and baffled Mary

**Dazzles and baffles us**

Where we have thought too highly of ourselves,

looking down on others

**Lord have mercy**

Where we have failed to challenge the powerful,

ignoring the cries of the powerless.

**Lord have mercy**

Where we have filled ourselves with good things,

sending the poor away empty

**Lord have mercy**

And by your Spirit

birth in us and through us

**life in all its fullness.**

**Listening for the Word of God**

Sit

From *The Common Lectionary*

**The Canticle**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

**as when fire kindles brushwood**

**and the fire causes water to boil**—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence.

**When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,**

**you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence**.

From ages past no one has heard,

no eye has perceived

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

**We have all become like one who is unclean,**

**and all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags.**

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like a wind, take us away.

**Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;**

**we are the clay, you are our potter;**

**we are all the work of your hand**.

*Isaiah 64:1-4, 6, 8*

**Bringing our Concerns**

Kneel with hands open in the lap.

With Mary, God-bearer,

**we pray for all who carry the most precious of gifts.......**

With Mary, Christ-birther,

**we pray for all who today utter their first cry**

With Mary, accepter of the wildness of God,

**we pray for all who are misunderstood**

With Mary, fleeing violence,

**we pray for all who are refugees, the stateless, lost in the fogs of confusion and helplessness**

With Mary, heart-pierced,

**we pray for all who are broken-hearted and bereaved**

With Mary, singing of the unseating of powers,

**we pray for all who protest against injustice and oppression**

With Mary, greeted by faithful servants approaching the end of days,

**we pray for those who face their own infirmities and death.**

With Mary, God-bearer**,**

**we pray that the proud might be**

**scattered in the imaginations of their heart**

**and the humble and meek lifted up,**

**that the hungry might be filled with good** **things,**

**and the rich sent empty away, Amen.**

**Going to love and serve.**

Stand, with open arms and hands

Celebrating the mystery of your coming,

and stepping into the unknown we say with Mary,

**We are your servants, let it be to us as you lead.**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

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