CALL TO WORSHIP
O God, our light, if ever there were a people who need your light, it is us.
If ever there were a place where hope needed to be born, it is in the manger of our hearts.
The work of your hands surrounds us, the miracle of your coming confronts us.
God of Hope come be present in our worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP
O God you created the heavens and the stars
as signs that you are present with us always
O God you are present with us
even in the darkest night
O God we worship you today in hope

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come, let us worship God who gives light
to see the way
Come, let us worship God who gives hope
to walk in faith
Come, let us worship God
who came as a child
Come, let us worship God!
OPENING PRAYER
Lord, it is winter now. The days are short, the darkness of our despair encroaches soon... Still, you call us out of this darkness into your great light. The winds of our icy discontent swirl all about us, to freeze our faith and numb our courage... but you are our light and salvation, why should we be afraid? God, enter with us into this place, your house. Here, may all that troubles us melt in the light and warmth of your care.

RESPONSIVE READING (CEB)
L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. P: On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

ALL: HOPE

L: A child is born to us, a son is given to us, P: and authority will be on his shoulders. L: He will be named Wonderful Counselor, P: Mighty God, Eternal Father,

ALL: Prince of Peace!

BENEDICTION
Go now into this cold world, warmed by the very presence of God. Go in safety, for there is no place that God has not already been. Go in joy, for Jesus has already gone ahead of us, and we gladly follow. Go in confidence, for we are kept in God’s care.

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