

Additional ideas by Nancy C. Townley

Alternative Call to Worship

L: In the midst of festivities, shouts, and bright lights, we feel the darkness of our souls.

P: Come, God of power and Light, help us.

L: In the midst of gatherings, we feel alone and alienated.

P: Come, God of peace and Hope, hear our cries.

L: In the midst of celebration, our hearts cry out.

P: Lord, hear us and come to us. Bring us peace. AMEN.

THE BRINGING IN OF THE LIGHT: *You may have an acolyte or some other person bring in the light and light the four blue advent candles on the table.*

Scripture Readings: *[Note: You may ask three people to read, or have one person other than the worship leader read the "Readers" parts]*

Leader: In this scripture Jesus shares the parable of the feast to which many are invited but choose not to come, and others who have felt alienated are invited to the feast. In God's divine order, all are invited; no one is excluded.

Reader: Luke 14: 15-24

Leader: When burdens get piled on top of other burdens, the load can crush us. In his promise, Jesus offers us help to carry our burdens and responsibilities. We do not have to bear them alone, he will always help us.

Reader: Matthew 11: 28-29

Leader: Our world, with its hurts and hatred, is not the way God would have us live. God's kingdom promises something so startlingly new that it takes our breath away. Those who weep now will not weep later. There will be no need of tears.

Reader: Revelation 21: 1-7