

# Advent Prayer Service

## LEADER:

God set a star in the heavens to lead people to Jesus, born in Bethlehem. At our Baptism, we are asked to lead people to Jesus – to be missionaries and to shine as brightly as the Star of Bethlehem, reflecting the love of Jesus to others by our words and our actions. As we prepare for Christmas, we offer prayerful thanks to God for His gift of our faith. We ask God to help us to continue to share that gift with others throughout the world, through prayer and sacrifice.

## PRESIDER:

*(Making the sign of the cross.)* Let us begin with the sign of our salvation. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen. Let us now listen to God's Word and allow what we hear to open our hearts and minds to come closer to Him and to share His love with others.

## READER:

Isaiah 60:1-6 *(The glory of the Lord shines upon you)*

## Candle Lighting (optional)

## PRESIDER:

In a world that struggles with divisions and differences, let us be a light of love, a light of hope, a light of peace, and a light of joy. *(As we light this candle today)*, let it shine out as a sign of the call we heard at Baptism to be missionaries – to lead others to Christ and His Good News. Let us now ask God's help to count our blessings, as we pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Missions.

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Have you ever looked up on a clear night and tried to count all the stars? Have you ever seen a star that looked a little brighter than the rest? There is one special star in the sky even today that people follow. It's called the North Star, or Polaris. What is special about this star is that it always stays in the same place, and all the other stars circle it. It's called the North Star because when you look at it, you're facing north. Before machinery and computers, ship captains used the North Star to navigate the oceans. They could always tell where they were by finding the North Star.



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**READER:**

Loving God, in the midst of our daily lives, we remember that we are “one family in mission.”

**All: We remember, O God.**

**READER:**

Blessed with an abundance of food and safe drinking water, we remember children in the Missions who go to bed hungry and who find themselves sick from a lack of clean water.

**All: We remember, O God.**

**READER:**

Blessed with a place to live and clothes to wear, we remember children who are refugees from mission countries and their families.

**All: We remember, O God.**

**READER:**

Blessed with the ability to go to school and learn to read and write, we remember children in the Missions who don't have a school to go to or who may be forced to work instead.

**All: We remember, O God.**

**READER:**

Blessed with people in our lives who we can call on when we're afraid or need help, we remember children in the Missions who, right now, may be alone or afraid, and we remember especially the

missionaries who seek them out to offer them love and caring, as Jesus would.

**All: We remember, O God.**

**PRESIDER:**

Lord, we thank you for loving us and helping us to see our own blessings, as we pray for Your love and hope to be part of the everyday lives of children in the Missions. As members of the Holy Childhood Association, we remember in our hearts and prayers children in mission countries, and give thanks that we are Your missionaries every day, right here at home, through our prayers and our sacrifices.

**All: Amen.**

**PRESIDER:**

Let us unite our voices and pray as Jesus taught us...

**All: Our Father....**

**PRESIDER:**

The peace of the Lord be with each of you.

**All: And with Your Spirit.**

**PRESIDER:**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace as we go forth as missionaries bringing the light of Christ to the whole world!

**CLOSING SONG:**

*Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos*  
(We Are Marching in the Light of God / Traditional South African Hymn)

## Artwork 2010-2011 HCA Christmas Contest



**Kristina Kourkoulos**  
Grand Prize Winner



**Chelsea Faith T. Mariano**  
Grand Prize Winner

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

A PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY



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