



continuing the journey of transforming grace:

transforming practice

ADVENT #1 2024

Opening Song

At This Table | Idina Menzel

Opening Prayer

Pope Francis, Angelus, December 1, 2024

"If worries weigh down our hearts and induce us to close in on ourselves, Jesus, on the other hand, invites us to lift up our heads, to trust His love that wants to save us and that draws close to us in every situation of our existence. He asks us to make room for Him in order to find hope again."

Scripture

Philippians 4: 6-7

"Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds."

Listen and Learn

Big Think: The one temptation to resist post-election Good vs Evil

PBS: Tips for navigating political division to find common ground at holiday gatherings

Priya Parker: 3 steps to turn everyday get-togethers into transformative gatherings

Pause, Reflect and Connect

We have spent the last 12 months of Transforming Grace exploring ideas, skills, concepts and ways of being present in situations of discomfort or difference. We now enter into living our learning.

As you listened to the videos, did you hear something with which you could resonate? Did you experience

an inner nudge or an invitation to rethink a way of being present with someone with whom you experience a divide?

In the next six weeks, these reflections will invite you to consider moving towards situations that you may have previously avoided. Imagine being invited or inviting others into a gathering where differences are less important than relationship. How might you prepare for such a next step in Transforming Grace.

Closing Prayer

God of Advent Longing,
Be with us in our waiting.
Invite us into Your stillness.
Enflame us with Your desire for love.
Surround us with Your compassion for all of humanity.
Make of us an Advent people.

Closing Song

Be Born in Me | Francesca Battistelli

