

# Anointing – Advent Response

(If Psalm 80:1-7 has not yet been read, you can begin the anointing service with the following responsive reading, which is adapted slightly for congregational use.)

## Responsive Reading

Psalm 80:1-7

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

**People: Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

*ALL: Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
You have fed us with the bread of tears,  
and given us tears to drink in full measure.

**People: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.**

*ALL: Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**People: Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

*ALL: Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: Give us your ear, O Shepherd of Israel.  
Apart from you, we are lost,  
but in your presence there is healing  
for those imprisoned by fear, anxiety, skepticism, and doubt;  
recovery for those who are blind;  
liberty for the oppressed,  
good news for the poor,  
and the hope of Jubilee for all.  
Stir up your might and come to save us.  
Let your face shine on us that your will may be done  
both now and forever. Amen.

## Anointing

Come.

Come to receive the oil of anointing as a sign of healing.

Come with needs spoken and unspoken,  
whether in sadness and suffering  
or in joy and contentment.

Receive the oil as a sign of Jesus' presence with you,  
as a mark that you are his,  
and as a commitment to live peaceably with all.

*(Those performing the anointing should say this to each person:)*

May the restoring love of God,  
the healing hope of Emmanuel,  
and the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit be yours.

## Congregational Response

Leader: Shepherd of Israel, you have given us life

**People: when we called on your name.**

Leader: You have restored us, O God.

**All: *In the light of your shining face we are saved.***

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