**AMRI Advent Candle Lighting Service**

***(Based on Laudato Si’: Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter on Care for our Common Home)***

**Opening: *Soft Music***

**Call to Prayer**

***“Let the earth open for salvation to spring up.” Isaiah 45:8***

As we journey in faith through this Advent Season: a season pregnant with Promise, we contemplate Christ’s presence within us and among us, lighting up our darkness; and we pray for the grace to allow the spirit and challenge of Laudato Si’ to permeate our attitudes and actions, and to empower us to live as People of the Light.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

***Lighting of Candle #1: Purple***

We pray that a Culture of Care and Welcome will blossom and grow among humankind, and inspire individuals and authorities to effectively address the environmental and social problems, which are having such a detrimental impact on the lives and wellbeing of people, and seriously endangering the health and future of our Common Home.

***Response:*** Praise to you Creator and Redeemer through our sister, Mother Earth.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

***Lighting of Candle #2: Purple***

We pray that Gospel Wisdom will deepen our appreciation of the ecosystem within which we live, and that an enhanced capacity and willingness to listen to ‘both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’ will strengthen our commitment to the practice and promotion of an integral ecology, characterized by Eco Justice and Social Justice.

***Response:*** Praise to you Creator and Redeemer though our sister, Mother Earth.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

***Lighting of Candle #3: Pink***

We pray that the work of Missionaries, Trócaire, other development agencies, enlightened and compassionate world leaders, and all who are committed to serving those most affected, and yet least responsible for environmental catastrophes, will continue to bear fruit; we remember especially eco-refugees forced to migrate from lands affected by war, drought or flooding, or devastated by deforestation or global warming; may the efforts of those working toward alleviating human suffering bring hope and joy to the lives of persons who are exploited, excluded and whose dignity is disregarded.

***Response:*** Praise to you Creator and Redeemer through our sister, Mother Earth.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

***Lighting of Candle #4: Purple***

We pray that the principles of mutuality, reciprocity, inter-generational and multi-cultural solidarity will guide future development; making sure that it will be fair, proportionate, democratic and sustainable; that it will ensure detoxification of our economies and societies, and respect for human dignity; as well as facilitating true peace, happiness and flourishing for humanity; and be committed to the preservation of all life within the ecosystem.

***Response:*** Praise to you Creator and Redeemer through our sister, Mother Earth.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

***Lighting of Candle #5: White***

We pray that by reflecting on the eternal message of Christmas; that Christ is alive and is our hope, we will be inspired to move beyond consumerism and a throw-away culture, adopt a simplified, frugal and generous lifestyle, reach out and remain close to the those less fortunate, oppressed, or abandoned, so that they too ***“may have life and have it abundantly” (Jn. 10:10).***

***Response:*** Praise to you Creator and Redeemer through our sister, Mother Earth.

***Brief Pause / Soft Music***

**Blessing**

May the blessing of God: Creator and sustainer of life,

The eternal goodwill and justice of God,

The Shalom of God,

The loving kindness and warmth of God,

Be among us and between us

As we strive to promote and activate the prophetic message

Of Laudato Si’