

## December ~ Blessing of the Night

As the daylight hours give way during the month of December, the night calls forth our attention. In the darkness of night, we gaze into the star-filled sky with wonder.

As we watch and wait for the Light of Jesus Christ during the season of Advent, the darkness of a night can be a powerful setting for prayer.

Wait for an evening when the sky is clear and the wind is still; gather family and friends and walk outdoors. Find a place where the view of the night sky is unobstructed. Invite everyone to join in this Blessing of the Night.

### Opening Prayer

Lord of Peaceful Night, in your creative wisdom you created light to rule the day and darkness to rule the night. It is the darkness of night that draws our need for the virtues of hope and trust: Remind us to delight in the comfort of rest and solitude. Let the night encircle us and instruct us to seek more deeply your wisdom and peace. May Your Hand rest upon us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### Closing Blessing

God of wonder and hope, we thank you for your everlasting presence. Though we feel lonely and estranged at times, you have not abandoned us. You who govern the night, inspire in us a faith like our ancestors of old, a faith that casts off our needless fear and crippling despair.

We ask you to bless us and increase our longing for the fullness of your kingdom, more bountiful than all the stars that cover the sky. Awed by the immensity of this night, may we live as vigilant pilgrims, who are always prepared for when you call us home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.