

# Small Group Ministry Session Thirteen: December Holidays

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## OPENING WORDS

We gather in the chill of winter solstice, finding warmth from each other,  
nourishing hope where reason fails.

Grateful for small miracles,  
we rejoice in the wonder of light  
and darkness and the daring of hope.

Holy One of Blessing

Your Presence fills creation

You made us holy with Your commandments  
and called us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

Holy One of Blessing

Your Presence fills creation

You performed miracles for our ancestors  
in days of old at this season.

Holy One of Blessing

Your Presence fills creation

You have kept us alive

You have sustained us

You have brought us to this moment.

- "Hanukkah Lights" by Congregation Beth El, Sudbury, MA

## CHECK IN

- Current state of physical or spiritual health
- Joys or concerns about loved ones
- Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

## REVIEW COVENANT

## BREAK

## DISCUSSION

December Holidays--we all bring memories to the December holiday season, of Hanukkah observances or of Christmases past, and we bring high hopes and expectations as well. What are some of our stories? What expectations do we hold that have, perhaps, brought disappointment in the past? What expectation or intention can we bring to this year's festivities which may bring happiness into the world for ourselves and for those we love?

## CHECK OUT

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

## **CLOSING WORDS**

When the song of angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home.

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,

to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace among the brothers,

to make music in the heart.

- "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman