



ADVENT: REVEALED & REINFORCED GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

How is God calling you to remember Advent's true purpose?

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THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

- Words printed in **ALL CAPS & bold** are spoken or sung by everyone.
- At places marked with the “✝,” you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singers

- Penny Kirk

Scripture Reading

- Rod Gilmer

Minutes for Mission

- Eleanor Henn

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: Come touch our hearts MV #12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice, to seek a work more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.

THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Light one candle for peace.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but we refuse to be frozen by fear.
Peace comes in fits and starts-
 a deep breath
 a courageous truth
 a humble heart.
 “Prepare the way,” she whispers,
 “for the Lord comes to make the broken whole.”



So we light one candle because it only takes one: Christ with us. [*Light Candles*]

HYMN: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star [verse 2] MV #220 †

Hope shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Praise God's from the tops of the highest mountains!

People: Grant us peace, Almighty God!

One: Praise God from the bottom of the deepest valleys!

People: Grant us peace, Merciful God!

One: Praise God from the bumps in the road!

People: Grant us peace, Gracious God!

One: Praise God from the still waters!

People: Grant us peace, Compassionate God!

One: Praise the God of the highs and lows, rough places and smooth.

People: We come to praise God who brings peace to us all.

HYMN: Don't be afraid MV #90 †

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, and I have promised,
Promised to be always near.

OPENING PRAYER

Revealing God,

At this moment, in these spaces and times, we silenced our hearts in readiness to hear what you have to say to us during this season of Advent.

Sometimes our minds become distracted by the business of the season and living with a pandemic and we fail to see; to feel; to hear, and live into the promised peace you offer to your people.

In this hour of worship, and in this season of waiting, may your people turn not to folly but in righteousness, prepare the way for Christ reign here and now. Amen - *Franklyn James*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Gracious God, From all the places of fear in our lives, speak comfort to us, call us to prepare a way back to you. remind us that even in the wilderness moments of our lives, we will find a way back to you.

ALL: Forgive us when we act out on anxiety, rather than faith. Forgive us when our human reactions of fear, anger, and vengeance close us off from the ways of peace that you desire for us.

ASSURANCE

The grace of God endures forever, filling all that has been, all that is and all that is to come. In all our seasons, we are called to prepare for our God, who forgives all our sins.

ALL: Thank be to God! Amen

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- Christmas love letters from God

HYMN: One more step along the world I go [vs 1-2] VU #639 †

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go,
from the old thing to the new, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I lean;
All the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me traveling along with you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Psalm 85: 8-13 [Read from the Bible]
- Mark 1: 1-8
- 2nd Peter 3:8-14

THE REFLECTION

RESPONSE HYMN: To show by touch and word VU #427 †

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
Our hearts long for the truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick , rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your Word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

One: Prepare for God's promised one!

The promised one has a message to change the world:

That the poorest and most disadvantaged are honored by God.

That the vulnerable and mentally challenged are precious in God's sight.

That the most selfish and single-minded are not beyond forgiveness;

The longest and most hate-provoking wars and racial conflicts can be settled.

People: This is Good News! We stand with John, and wait for the coming of Jesus.

People: Prepare for God's promised one!

The promised one has a message for the suffering:

That even the most tongue-tied and shy will be noticed;

That the elderly and the young are worthy of respect;

That God's love for the seriously ill is steadfast;

That God love is with the dying and those who wait with them;

That God stand beside the bereaved,

Engage: Time of silent reflection as we remember

One: This is Good News! We stand with John, and wait for the coming of Jesus.

One: Prepare for God's promised one!

The promised one has a message for each one of us:

That we stand in a long tradition of Christian saints,

That we have gifts to give and use in God's service,

That we know and can promote the values of God's realm justice, peace, and sharing:

That nothing can separate us from the love of God,

People: This is Good News! We stand with John, and wait for the coming of Jesus.

And now let us reflect on and say the prayer Jesus taught his disciples then, and us now...

Celebrating the Holy Communion

HYMN: One Bread, One Body VU #467

Refrain

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless:
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. (*Refrain*)

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (*Refrain*)

Grain for the field, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. (*Refrain*)



INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Welcome!

Today we celebrate expectations. We gather around this table filled with revelation and wonder, yet not sure what we are experiencing.

When the bread is broken, we may find hunger rumbling in our bellies or see a powerful symbol.

When the wine is poured, we may feel a sense of celebration or a sense of longing.

For each of us, the advent season is felt differently. Let us bring all our different senses and moods, and gather at The Table – a place of remembering the body of Christ.

THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you.

Herald of heralds, you sent messengers ahead of you, who will prepare your way, voices calling in our wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord."

People: We listened to what the messengers of God said and we welcome the promised peace with thanksgiving and praise.

One: Creator of word, of flesh, of thoughts, and senses, we give thanks for all the ways you introduced compassion and connection into our world.

People: Your Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

One: Creator of freedom from plagues, from bondage, from transgression, we give thanks for the covenant of grace that finds a way out of no way.

People: Your faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. For this, we cannot stop praising you Holy One, and we heed your call to live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of your second Advent.

One: Renewer of love, Keeper of peace and Guardian of justice, we give thanks for Christ and a love more powerful than death.

People: Sustainer of all that has come and is coming, we give you thanks for the Spirit; whose presence guides us.

SANCTUS

One: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MYSTERY OF FAITH

One: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Amen

BLESSING & DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

HYMN: Bread of life, feed my soul MV #194[†]

(Sing one or 2 verses as people at home share of the Bread & Wine)

Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart, with the grace and mercy you impart.

*I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care."*

Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart, with the grace and mercy you impart.

Words while serving the bread and wine!

- Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life
- Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {Unison}

Though this was just a bite, a sip, a sliver of experience, we made taste, sound, smell, colour and mood come together in remembrance of the one who enlivened word with flesh and then resurrected life with love. Help us, in every moment, to experience and share your redeeming love. Amen

HYMN: Ka mana' o 'I 'O MV #103 †

Refrain

Kamana'o 'I 'O

O ko kakou Akua.

Faithful, faithful is our God.

In love there is no one more faithful than our God,
who brings the light into our darkness.

The God who shares the breath of life with you and me,
all living things upon the earth. (***Refrain***)

In quiet moments God whispers tenderly the mystery of unending love.
For God is good, and holds us as we sleep, to wake us to the morning light. (***Refrain***)

The mercy of our God we seek to share each day, to help each other on our way,
to be God's hands and heart with tenderness and care.
God's faithfulness is always there. (***Refrain***)

When we share love, we share respect and care, the gifts and bonds of human kindness.
And in our journey, may love lead the way.
To be God's living, sing this day." (***Refrain***)

THANK YOU, COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

May starlight guide your steps towards this place of wonder,
May angels sing their news as you travel to the manger,
May promise fill these days as we watch at the edge of birth, and May faith tell you,
Emmanuel is with us and will be with us in a new way, in the new realm.

CLOSING HYMN: Angels we have heard on high VU #38 †

1

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly swinging o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. (***Refrain***)

2

Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? (***Refrain***)

Refrain

Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (***Refrain***)

4

See within in a manger laid,
whom the choirs and angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise. (***Refrain***)



THANK YOU & CREDITS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you. You can also e-transfer your gift and offerings to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may use the messenger tab here or email them to standrewsenderby@hotmail.com

Call to Worship & Prayers - Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION Advent Christmas 2020-2021 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020

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Prayers of the people – Spark, David. (Pastoral prayer to share: Prayers for the people for each Sunday of the church year: Year B Revised Common Lectionary. 2011), pp, 30-31

MUSIC CREDITS

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