

Worship Booklet for the Season of Advent
The First Sunday of Advent: November 29, 2020
=== *Modified Morning Prayer* ===
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #57, “Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending,” v. 1 & 4

Verse 1:

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Verse 4:

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Officiant Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. *Mark 13:35,36*

Advent Kyrie

Officiant Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Officiant You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

People *Christ, have mercy.*

Officiant You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All *Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
Response And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalm 100 Jubilate Deo*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

*For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Liturgy *From Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church*

For Advent 1 – Hope

Reader 1: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

Reader 1: We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Reader 2: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Psalm *Psalm 80:1-7,16-18* *Qui regis Israel*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

***Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.***

***In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.***

***Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

***O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?***

***You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.***

***You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.***

***Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

***Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.***

***And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.***

***Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

The Old Testament – Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

The Epistle – 1 Corinthians 1 :3-9

Reader:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

(See **Celtic Alleluia** on next page . . .)

*Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia

After a brief introduction, sing two times through

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The Gospel – Mark 13:24-37

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Response *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Officiant The Gospel of our Savior.

Response *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

This year Bishop Marc and the Diocese of California has expressed its desire to introduce into our worship services some of the gifts given to serving Jesus Christ from people of color including various cultures. This Advent Season we introduce to Christ the Lord Church the poetic gifts of Reverend Doctor Howard Thurman (1899–1981).

"He preached a philosophy of Common Ground, which taught that humans need to seek an inner spiritual happiness that would lead them to share their experience in community with others. In 1944, Thurman co-founded San Francisco's Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, the first integrated interfaith religious congregation in the

United States. In 1953, he became the dean of Marsh Chapel, the first black dean at a mostly white American university, mentoring, among many others, Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS'55, Hon. '59) as he developed his philosophy of nonviolence." From Boston University Today, January 7, 2020

A Poem by Howard Thurman (from *Meditations of the Heart*) – Rev. Lois
“Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me “

Open unto me—light for my darkness.
Open unto me—courage for my fear.
Open unto me—hope for my despair.
Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me—tenderness for my toughness.
Open unto me—love for my hates.
Open unto me—Thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

A Reflection – Rev. Lois

9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus* Isaiah 12:2-6

A Reader leads the canticle recitation

Reader and People together.

*Surely, it is God who saves me; **
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
*For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, **
and he will be my Savior.
*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing**
from the springs of salvation.
*And on that day you shall say, **
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
*Make his deeds known among the peoples; **
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
*Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, **
and this is known in all the world.
*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, **
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

(See **The Apostles' Creed** on next page . . .)

The Apostles' Creed

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Response *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

All *Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People *Adapted from Advent Prayers, Rev. Jim Friedrich, The Religious Imagineer*

The Reader leads and the People respond

Reader: Let us pray to God with our community and our neighbors, responding with:
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every
story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

People *O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

Reader: Blessed are You who joins us together in the communion of Christ's body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

People: ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Lover of souls, give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare Your room.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.***

The Doxology

All ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Reader: God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these financial gifts we have made to Christ the Lord Church and our community into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. ***Amen.***

Add your prayers for yourself and the world, and thanks for God's blessings, out loud or in the chat.

Officiant O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

A Prayer to Heal a Divided Nation - Adapted from "A Prayer to Heal a Divided Nation" by Reverend Elizabeth Kaeton, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (<https://rerc.org>)

A Reader leads and the People respond

Almighty and merciful God, a new day has dawned with America more divided than it has been since the days of the Civil War. Half of your people are rejoicing while the other half are in denial and angry. What divided us then continues to tear at the seams of the fabric of this nation. We are a United Divided States. ***We lift up our voices to You. Hear us, Lord God.***

Help us remember that the experiment called democracy is not over; it is still being tested. After 244 years of existence, the final results are not yet in. We still have work to do.

Hear us, Lord God.

In the midst of our sense of victory, help us remember your call to love one another as you love us. In the midst of our sense of defeat, help us remember that you still reign; you alone are worshipped; you alone are God.

Hear us, Lord God.

Help us remember your high calling to us to be agents of forgiveness and reconciliation, love and peace, healing and hope in a world made dark by fear, hatred, and brokenness.

Hear us, Lord God.

Help us rebuild this nation by seeking out your image in the face of others, finding the best in us to serve those who are the least, the lost, and the lonely.

Hear us, Lord God.

Help us remember the words of your servant John who reminded us that, 'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.' Help us perfect our love.

Hear us, Lord God.

We are your people; you know us by many names. You are our God – and we know you by many names. May we find strength in our diversity and seek the courage to live into what is written on the currency in this nation: In God We Trust. And, E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many, One.

Hear us, Lord God.

For only in you, Eternal Father, can we live in safety. Only in you will we find justice. And only in you will we know the peace that passes all human understanding.

***Help us heal our country, O God.
We beseech you, hear our prayer. Amen.***

A Collect for Mission

Reader: O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving
Officiant and People together

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom [KRIS-us-tum]

Reader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn – Gather #248, “The King Shall Come,” v. 1, 2 & 3

Verse 1:

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks.
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

Verse 2:

Not, as of old, a little child,
To suffer and to die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.

Verse 3:

The King shall come when morning dawns
And earth’s dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn
Whose day shall ever last.

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

Don't forget to join us for virtual coffee hour after the service through Zoom! Check your email from Sandy for details.

Stewardship update: Thanks to all of you who have returned your completed pledge and time and talent forms. If you have not already done so, please return your completed forms to the Church office. God bless all of us as we bring the light and love of Christ into the world.