

Preparing for Worship Today

- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!
- Today the order of service changes to mark our shift into the season of Advent; it's all still there, some parts are just in a different places!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

LITBIT: There is a sense in which Christians are trained by the liturgy to be a people “untimely born,” as Paul says of himself (1 Cor. 15:8). This is not because we are traditionalists who slavishly and nostalgically long for the old ways (Jer. 6:16). However, there is a deep sense in which the church is a people called to resist the presentism embedded in the tyranny of the contemporary. We are called to be a people of memory, who are shaped by a tradition that is millennia older than the last Billboard chart. And we are also called to be a people of expectation, praying for and looking forward to a coming kingdom that will break in upon our present as a thief in the night. We are a stretched people, citizens of a kingdom that is both older and newer than anything offered by “the contemporary.” The practices of Christian worship over the liturgical year form in us something of an “old soul” that is perpetually pointed to a future, longing for a coming kingdom, and seeking to be such a stretched people in the present who are a foretaste of the coming kingdom.

JAMES K A SMITH

Prelude

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

We stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

The Promises of God

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

We listen for the promises of God:

Isaiah 2:1-5 *The days are surely coming...*

To you, O LORD, we lift up our hearts.
In you, our God, do we trust.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

cf. Psalm 25.1,2,5,6

Come to us, Lord, as light for our world,
Come to us, O God.

The first Advent Candle is lit

Hymn 443 Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

We do not live by bread alone,
***but by every word that comes
from the mouth of God***

Romans 13:11-14 *The night is far gone, the day is near*

Psalm 122 Peace be within your walls [PCS p.344 no.6]

*The REFRAIN is sung before and after the whole psalm.
The psalm text will then be sung responsorially to the TONE
below: the first line is sung by the ‘half’ of the congregation
closest to the stained glass windows, the second bold-italic line
by the other side*

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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TONE

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

- ¹ I was glad when they | said to me,
'Let us go to the house | of the LORD!'
- ² Our | feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jer- | -usalem.
- ³ ***Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound | firmly together.***
- ⁴ To it the | tribes go up,
the tribes | of the LORD,
 as was de- | -creed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name | of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there the thrones for judgement | were set up,
the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jer- | -usalem:
'May they | prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be with- | -in your walls,
and security with- | -in your towers.'

Matthew 24:36-44 *The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

The text of the sermon will normally be available after worship and online

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

Prayer of Confession

(Each line is sung first by the minister/cantor and then repeated by the congregation)

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. —

Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

***Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison;
 Christe, Christe, Christe eleison;
 Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.***

Declaration of Forgiveness

(We stand)

...hear Christ's word of grace to us:
 Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology (Hymn 772)

***Worship, honour, glory blessing,
 Lord we offer to your name;
 young and old, their praise expressing,
 join your goodness to proclaim.
 As the saints in heaven adore you,
 we would bow before your throne;
 as your angels serve before you,
 so on earth your will be done.***

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.*

*We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things
which he will bring.*

*We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.*

*We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.*

*We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

LITBIT: Sometimes, after receiving Holy Communion, as I look around a congregation, large or small, I have a sensation I can only sum up as *this is it* – this is the moment when people see one another and the world properly: when they are filled with the Holy Spirit and when they are equipped to go and do God's work. It may last only a few seconds but there it is. It has happened and it happens again and again. And what is the appropriate response?

...thanksgiving.

ROWAN WILLIAMS

Hymn 272 Come thou long expected Jesus

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*
 (The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

(The people sit)

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb_ of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have _
 mer - cy on us, have _ mer - cy on us.
 Lamb_ of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have _
 mer - cy on us, have _ mer - cy on us.
 Lamb_ of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant ____
 ____ us peace, grant _____ us peace.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.*

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward in single file to the table, where you will be offered the bread at one point and the wine (in communion glasses only) at a second point. The wine has been prepared with as much COVID-19 precaution as practicable, and the celebrant and wine-server have sanitised their hands prior to the distribution. The common cup will only be used by the celebrant

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

Offering *(We stand as the offering is brought forward)*

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plates will be passed around for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 548 (tune 332) Eternal light, shine in my heart

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

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