

Preparing for Worship Today

- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- The sung responses of the Communion Setting are from Chris Wilcock's "Mass for the Fallen", and are used with permission
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship 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

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 11:1-10 *A shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse*

We pray with Zechariah:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

Shining on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and guiding our feet into the way of peace. *cf. Luke 1*

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

The second Advent Candle is lit

Hymn 284 O bless the God of Israel

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 15:4-13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing*

Psalms 72:1-8 *Give the king your justice, O God [PCS 65 (Advent)]*
The cantor sings the verses, punctuated with the congregational refrain

Advent Peter R. Hallock

In his time jus-tice and peace shall flour-ish.

The musical notation is a single staff in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a triplet of eighth notes in the fourth measure. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens under 'jus-tice' and 'flour-ish' to indicate syllable placement.

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Matthew 3:1-12 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*

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

The Preaching of the Word

LITBIT: The preacher needs to articulate the awful truth of human need, a need that many of the hearers may already know but for which they may have no words. The words of the sermon need to include the hearers together with all the outsiders and the sinners, using the terms of the texts as names for our sin and death and sorrow. There will be no insiders here; all of us need a word to say the truth about our common lot and all of us need a word in order to begin to believe again.

GORDON LATHROP

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

*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.*

Edward Osler 1798-1863 (Hymn 772)

The Peace

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

Affirmation of faith: God is with us

***We are not alone,
we live in God's world.***

***We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.***

*The United Church of Canada,
General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

LITBIT: Think of the domination, exploitation and pollution of man and nature that goes with bread, all the bitterness of competition and class struggle, all the organized selfishness of tariffs and price-rings, all the wicked oddity of a world distribution that brings plenty to some and malnutrition to others, bringing them to that symbol of poverty we call the bread line. And wine too – fruit of the vine and work of human hands, the wine of holidays and weddings ... This wine is also the bottle, the source of some of the most tragic forms of human degradation: drunkenness, broken homes, sensuality, debt. What Christ bodies himself into is bread and wine like this, and he manages to make sense of it, to humanize it. Nothing human is alien to him. If we bring bread and wine to the Lord's Table, we are implicating ourselves in being prepared to bring to God all that bread and wine mean. We are implicating ourselves in bringing to God, for him to make sense of, all which is broken and unlovely. We are implicating ourselves in the sorrow as well as the joy of the world.

TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

Hymn 552 Come, my way, my truth, my life

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)*

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 268 Joy to the World

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

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

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