

## *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!
- 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** N de Grigny, *Dialogue*

### *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 35:1-10 *Sorrow and sighing will flee away*

With the prophet Isaiah we confess our faith:

Surely God is our salvation;

***we will trust, and will not be afraid,***

for the LORD GOD is our strength and our might;

***he has become our salvation.***

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

***for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*** *cf. Isaiah 12*

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

*The third Advent Candle is lit*

#### **Hymn** 786 (tune 437)

1. Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
2. Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation.  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
crucified for our salvation.  
Saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us, your love outpouring.
3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,  
speak and heal our mortal blindness.  
Deaf we are, our healer be,  
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken;  
heal the world, by our sin broken.
4. Word that speaks God's tender love,  
one with God beyond all telling.  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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## *The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching*

**LITBIT:** The Church returns time and time again to Scripture not because it is trying to find the Scripture's true meaning, but because Christians believe that God has promised to speak through Scripture so that the Church will remain capable of living faithful by remembering well.

STANLEY HAUERWAS

### **The Testimony of Scripture**

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

James 5:7-10 Be patient, like the farmer waiting for the crop

Luke 1:46b-55 *via* Hymn 173 My soul gives glory to the Lord  
*We remain seated for this hymn*

Matthew 11:2-11 *Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?*

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

### **The Preaching of the Word**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

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

The image shows three lines of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first line is in G major and contains the lyrics: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. The second line is in G major and contains the lyrics: Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son. The third line is in G major and contains the lyrics: 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.***

### **The Apostles' Creed**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

***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 197** God's Son came to bless us

**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**

**LITBIT:** Prayer is not a narrowly private activity; it is about your *belonging* in the body of Christ, and in the family of humanity. If you understand what is going on when you pray, then the world changes. And if in prayer you are gradually becoming attuned to the will and purpose of God, then the divine power that comes into you is bound to find its outlet in this healing of relations. That is not to say that you pray *in order to be* a nicer person, or so that justice and reconciliation will happen. You pray *because Christ is in you*. And if that is really happening, then the sort of things you can expect to see developing around you are justice and reconciliation.

ROWAN WILLIAMS

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

### **Notices**

## ***The Sending Forth of the People of God***

**Hymn** 161 Tell out my soul

**Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** N Bruhns, *Praeludium*

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

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