

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude *“A Mighty Fortress” (arr. Jim Brickman)* Annette Nolan

Call to Worship

L: Gather us, O God

C: And we will know your life that makes us one.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will give you the pain of our brokenness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

L: Trinity of love braid us as one

C: That our brokenness be healed by you

That our fears be held by you

That our gifts be used by you

That our lives be offered to you

So that the world may know your reign of love. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

L: Where people squabble

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where races fight

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where neighbors argue

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where nations disagree

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where Christ's disciples gather

C: Peace be our way.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

Prayer of the Day (*St. Patrick's Breastplate*)

L: God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

The Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Scripture

Mark 3:20-35

The Message

Song of the Day

"You Say"

Octavia Hall

The Iona Abbey Creed

L: Now let us confess our faith with the words of the Iona Creed:

**C: We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, water and earth,
of the breadth and beauty of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Living God, we are your people. In this time and place, you have called us to pray for those in need. We pray for the people whose names the world knows, whose stories are told daily in the news . . .

Time for the community to pray.

L: With confidence we pray,

C: Hear our prayers.

L: Living God, we pray for people in places of suffering, whose names only you and their friends and families know, and whose lives you cherish . . .

Time for the community to pray.

L: With confidence we pray,

C: Hear our prayers.

L: Living God, we pray for the people whose names and lives we know, those who today are in pain or distress or trouble, those who are happy, those who are sad . . .

L: We especially pray for:

- Ashton family
- Lemont Bell
- Lee Chandler
- Dallas Collins
- Alpha Omega Curry
- Dee Dunlap
- Natalie Eklund
- Linda Foley
- Jennifer Frisina
- Eileen Folkerth
- Donnell Horton
- Houston family
- Nylah Howard
- Andrew Hunt
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Lynn McClurkin
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Lucy Mullis
- Chris Musial
- Charlotte Nodine & Wanda Cook
- Leo Peeler
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Joyce Veit
- Herbert Watson
- Naomi Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name.

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Delsey Maples, friend of Jennifer & Vince Frisina
- Linda Merry, former member of Advent
- Ralph Weis, father of Karen Taylor

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: With confidence we pray,

C: Hear our prayers.

L: Living God, we now pray for ourselves . . .

Time for the community to pray.

You know each one of us by name. Form us into the people you have created us to be – those who are called to do your will – and by your Holy Spirit challenge us to live as your family here and now not only for ourselves but for the sake of the world.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Invitation to the Table

L: The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

C: **Amen**

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Post-Communion Blessing

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.
May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.

May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.

May you never feel alone.

And if you do, may you carry in your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song

"Amazing Grace"

Octavia Hall & Annette Nolan

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**