

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
8840 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28213
(704) 549-1555
www.adventlu.org

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Annette Nolan

Call to Worship

L: Gather us, O God

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

L: Gather us, O God

C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

L: Gather us, O God

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

L: Gather us, O 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

L: Teach us the courage, O God,
to turn from what seems so natural, so safe:
the way of grasping power,
and befriending the powerful,
in the hope of protection and security.

Teach us the humility, O God,
to turn from what is so enticing, so persuasive:
the way of accumulating things,
and trusting in wealth,
In the hope of comfort and life

Lead us, O God, in another way,
the way of true security, true wealth,
the way of Christ, the servant,
the way of weakness and simplicity.

Lead us, O God, in another way,
the way of caring for the neglected,
feeding the hungry,
housing the homeless,
protecting the threatened,
and challenging the powerful,
the foolish way of the Gospel,
that brings salvation to all.

C: Amen.

(Prayer written by John van de Laar, *Sacredise*)

The First Reading

Amos 7:7-15

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

Carol Riddell



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 6:14-29

The Message

Song of the Day

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Carol Riddell

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: Lord God, draw us to you in constant prayer, that we might grow in the intimacy that makes your passion ours.

Time of silence.

L: We offer ourselves with all who have lived holy and dedicated lives.
Make us to be numbered with your saints.
We give thanks for the life and witness of John the Baptist.
We pray for all who have been imprisoned for their faith,
For all who at this time are facing persecution or danger,
For all who stand firmly for freedom and justice,
especially our ministry partners at Emmaus Lutheran Church in West Charlotte.
Show us your mercy, Lord God,

C: And grant us your salvation.

L: We pray that you would continue to move our nation toward the vision of your justice. Bless our national, state and local leaders to serve all people with integrity. Purge from us all hatred and prejudice, and build within us your love, that even in our dealings with the other nations of earth we may be servants of peace, truth and justice. Show us your mercy, Lord God,

C: And grant us your salvation.

L: We pray for those around us who need your care and ask that you would make of us your instruments of healing, peace and redemption. We pray for those we have named to you this day, and others we lift to you in the silence of our hearts.

L: We especially pray for:

- Lemont Bell
- Willie Chatman
- Dallas Collins
- Dee Dunlap
- Charliese Eichler
- Michael Eleazer
- Eileen Folkerth
- Cheryl Gossett
- Donnell Horton
- Nylah Howard
- MaryLou Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- GiGi Logan
- Ray Matthews
- Susan McCoy
- Carol Morton
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Tammy Paladino
- Leo Peeler
- Jacita Petway

- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Penny Short
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Joyce Veit
- Herbert 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.

Time for the community to pray.

L: We pray for the families and friends of those who are grieving the loss of family and friends in the collapse of the Champlain Condo in Miami.

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

- Marguerite Heming, Aunt of Bonnie Berger-Houde
- Keith Sauve, brother of Jayson Sauve former member of Advent
- Cody Gossett, co-worker of Andy Goerke

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: Show us your mercy, Lord God,

C: And grant us your salvation.

L: Lord God, Loving Savior, Empowering Spirit,
we offer these prayers to you,
those spoken and those still unknown to us.

Captivate us, call us and fill us,
that we may be bearers of your eternal life
to this world that you love so dearly.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparing the Table

“In the Singing”

Carol Riddell

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

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Carol Riddell



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God