

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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Pastoral Welcome

A Litany for Independence Day

Prelude

"America, the Beautiful"

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: Lord Jesus Christ, speak into us your Word, strengthen us by your presence, and send us out in the spirit of the twelve: filled with your authority, clothed in your humility, and accompanied by your Holy Spirit. There, in the world, may we meet the vulnerable, the kindly, and those ready to receive us with generosity and grace. And in this meeting, may we encounter you in the faces and in the lives of others. In your name, we pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

Laura Torrence

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 Message

Song of the Day

"Here I Am, Lord"

Laura Torrence

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, m
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: Gracious God, we come to you with hearts opened to your Word and your love. Through the life of Jesus Christ, you remind us that rejection is real and that living as your disciples requires tenacious trust. In all that we do, keep us ever mindful of your presence and the hope that you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Time of silence.

L: Gracious God, guide us, as your church, as we continue to share the Good News. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and lead us forward. We know that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way. Save us from dwelling on them and renew our trust as we follow in the way of Jesus Christ.

L: Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, hear our prayers for all who need your healing in their lives—those we name before you each day, and those who are known only to you in the depths of our hearts.

L: We especially pray for:

- Lemont Bell
- Willie Chatman
- Dallas Collins
- Dee Dunlap
- Charliese Eichler
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Cheryl Gossett
- Cody Gossett
- Donnell Horton
- Nylah Howard
- Andrew Hunt
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- GiGi Logan
- Elsie Mason
- Ray Matthews
- Susan McCoy
- Carol Morton
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Leo Peeler
- Jacita Petway
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon 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 still wait for news of missing loved ones in the collapse of the Champlain Condo in Miami.

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

- Chris Jackson, frequent visitor of Advent on June 15
- Mike Fisher, friend of VDC community on June 25
- Marguerite Heming, Aunt of Bonnie Berger-Houde
- Keith Sauve, brother of Jayson Sauve former member of Advent

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: We give thanks:

- For the birth of Hailey Anne McCombs, granddaughter of Jon and Natalie Eklund on June 21st.

L: Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, we offer these prayers to you, those spoken and those still unknown to us. Give us peace to trust you with the timing and the answers you provide. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparing the Table

Annette Nolan

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

"This Is My Song"

Traven Harrington

Dismissal

- L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God**