

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"There is a Redeemer"

Morning Chimes

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.

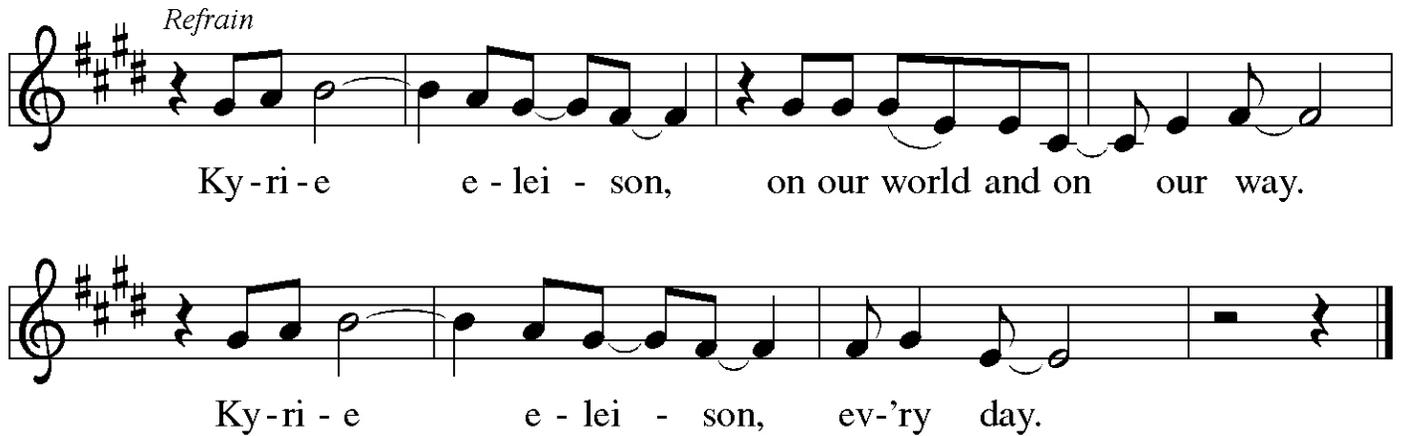
L: Where Christ's disciples gather

C: Peace be our way.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Refrain



The image shows two staves of musical notation for a refrain. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.' The second staff contains the lyrics 'Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.' The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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: When the journey is long and we hunger and thirst, Bread of Life, you sustain us.
When the road is hard and our bodies weak, Bread of Life, you heal us
When our spirits are low and we can't carry on, Bread of Life, you revive us.
When we offer our hand in love and in service, Bread of life, you bless us.
When the challenge is great and the workers are few, Bread of Life, you empower us.
When the victory is won and we see your face, Bread of Life, you will rejoice with us!

C: **Amen.**

(from John Birch, faithandworship.com)

The First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

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 Holy Scripture

John 6:51-58

Song of the Day

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

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,
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, giver of all good gifts, we thank you for all that satisfies and sustains us and for all the love you have given to us. We pray for your church, so that our gifts or possessions be neither hoarded nor squandered. Lord, make us a gracious and generous people.

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, the protector of all, we pray for all those who lives in countries that have been ravaged by war, violence, and political oppression, especially the people of Afghanistan who face a resurgence of the Taliban regime.

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, we pray for our planet even as we acknowledge our poor stewardship of finite resources. Give us and our elected leaders the courage to make difficult, but necessary environmental changes in the face of competing economic repercussions. We pray for all those impacted by the Dixie Wildfire in CA and other communities that are dealing with drought and excessive heat waves.

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

L: We especially pray for:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Amanda Banbridge | ▪ Collette Hishon |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Donnell Horton |
| ▪ Dallas Collins | ▪ Doug Hodge |
| ▪ Deborah DuBose | ▪ Nylah Howard |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Marylou Kuklantz |
| ▪ Keri Eichler | ▪ Waylon Kuklantz |
| ▪ Mike Eleazer | ▪ Ray Matthews |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell | ▪ Dave Park |

- Leo Peeler
- Jesse Priser
- Calvin Roberson
- Schierlmann family
- Richard Schulz
- Kassidy Sechler
- Susan Severance
- Rashaad Sinclair
- LouAnn Tolson
- David Townsend
- 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 remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Andrew (Ray) Hunt, brother of George Hunt
- Betty Jean Slattum, mother of Erik Slattum
- Judy Gould, friend of Russ & Lynn McKittrick
- Eileen Folkerth, mother of Susan Goerke
- Deborah Miller, mother of Esther Abdel-Hameed's son's fiancée
- Derek Poole, friend of Kera Hebert

L: 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 Robert Cooper Simyon, great-grandson of Dick and MaryLou Kuklantz

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. We give thanks for the development and availability of multiple vaccines, and we are bold to pray that those with vaccine hesitancy would choose to be vaccinated. Strengthen, encourage, and comfort us in the days ahead to rest in your peace in the midst of anxiety, frustration, and worry.

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, just as you heard the prayers of your people in the wilderness and fed them bread from heaven, you hear our prayers and feed us with the Bread of Life. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who satisfies the hunger and thirst of all people.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparing the Table

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Jennifer Frisina
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: Lord, make us an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

C: Amen.

Sending Song.

"It is Well with My Soul"

Jennifer Frisina
Annette Nolan

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God