

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"All Are Welcome"

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: Startle us, O God, with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love. Speak your word to us. Silence in us any voice but your own and be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds and our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2, 4-18

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 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, thank you for all the varied gifts you have given us in the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters who have said "yes" to living as Jesus' disciples. We offer our lives and the gifts you have given to us. Bless them and make them useful, so that our world's tomorrows will be a little better. May we be those who bring hope for those hurting, freedom for those weighed down, joy for the sorrowful, light for those in darkness, and healing for those who are ill.

L: Gracious God,

C: You are our hope and strength.

L: Gracious God, you are the one who raises up those who are bent low, so we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world. 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. We also pray for the country of Haiti after the devastating earthquake.

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, excessive heat waves, and hurricanes.

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
- Lemont Bell
- Darren & Wendy Bengé
- Dallas Collins
- Deborah DuBose
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Collette Hishon
- Donnell Horton
- Nylah Howard
- Marylou Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- David Park
- Leo Peeler
- Calvin Roberson
- Schierlmann family
- Richard Schulz
- Susan Severance
- Rashaad Sinclair
- James Smith
- Summerour family
- LouAnn Tolson
- David Townsend
- John Vick
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson
- Nanci and family

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:

- 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
- Bill Horne, Vice President of the ELCA
- Brew Benge, friend of Mona Ingolia

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 born on August 10.
- We give thanks for the marriage of Patrick Hough and his wife, Samantha, yesterday. May their lives together be blessed and a witness to your love for your creation.

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

"We Are An Offering"

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

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

Carol Riddell

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God