

# 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](http://www.adventlu.org)

July 26, 2020

Prelude

“Open My Eyes”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

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.

---

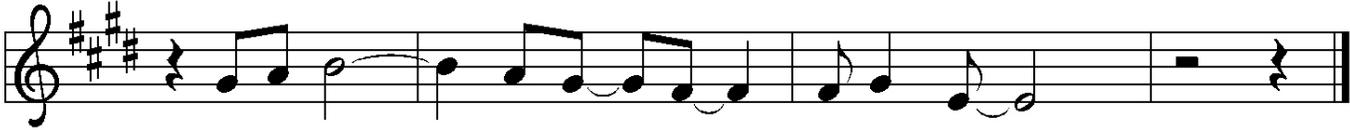
## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

---

*Refrain*



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



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

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
That we may live out . . . truth and justice and grace,  
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

### Prayer of the Day

L: Holy One,  
you call us to find your kingdom  
already hidden in our world—  
in tiny, transforming possibilities;  
in beauty that calls us to surrender all;  
in complicated choices that call for wisdom.  
Reveal yourself here in this moment  
And heighten our senses that we may find you  
And join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace.  
In the name of the One who calls us to seek,  
Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**The First Reading**

1 Kings 3:5-12

**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**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**The Message**

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

### **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, look on your world – then look on us. We know the world is so fractured and filled with chaos and crisis. Where to begin with our prayers? In our struggle to find the words, may your Spirit intercede with sighs too deep for words. Come, Holy Spirit!

*A brief silence.*

- L: Lord of all wisdom, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard tree, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all justice, break our hearts for what breaks yours. We pray for all our brothers and sisters, who have been victims of oppression and injustice. By the power of your Holy Spirit, empower us to work toward abolishing social structures which continue to perpetuate racial practices and policies. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all compassion, your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick.

We especially pray for:

- Josh Baker
- Lindsey Baker
- Sheryl Belk
- Lemont Bell
- Tim Caldwell
- Sharon Charity
- Freda Christ
- Nell Clayton
- Emma Fetting
- Eileen Folkerth
- Amber Gazda
- Jennifer Gazda
- Andrea Hankins
- Dwight Hartsell
- Jasmin Kivett
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Rick Messina
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Sabo family
- Richard Schulz
- Myra Steele
- Kirby Strickland & family
- Mary Faith Strickland
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams

L: Lord of all compassion We welcome and give thanks for the birth of Rook Rockwell Thiemann, born July 12 to Andy and Lindsay and brothers Owen and Zane.

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

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

Cheri Strickland, member and wife of Kirby Strickland  
 Pastor Sherrill Curtis, friend of Pastor Ward  
 Betty Taylor, mother of Tim Taylor  
 Audrey Sutphin, mother of Tim Fullmer  
 Catherine Staplefoote, sister of Teleah Amaker  
 Bonnie Mitchell, friend of Pastor Ward

. . . 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 Christ Jesus.

L: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, dread, and a hunger for life to be normal again. May we be people who embody a spirit of camaraderie, generosity, and faithful confidence. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord, take the time and gifts you have entrusted to us, and teach us how to use them to give others the abundant life of Jesus – so that your people may rejoice in the new life you give, for you are the life-giver and we are your servants.

**C: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

---

## 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.**

### Dismissal

**L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Sending Song

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Annette Nolan