

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

June 21, 2020

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

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“This Is My Father’s World”

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: God of the open road, God of the twisting path, God of the narrow and upward way, your people are gathered for worship! In this hour, give us provision for the journey, courage and faith and compassion, and endurance to face any hardship. Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, protecting us, encouraging us, loving us. We pray this in the name of the Jesus Christ who leads us on the way. Amen.

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 10:24-39

The Message

Saviour I come quiet my soul
Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom

Ev'rything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

You were as I tempted and tried human
The word became flesh
Bore my sin in death
Now You're risen

Ev'rything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

*CCLI Song # 4785828
Brooke Ligertwood*

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. How can we match up to the world's needs? We cannot even identify them adequately. Come to our aid!

A brief silence.

L: Lord of all life, grant to us all the strength to resist temptation, the trust to accept our tears, the endurance to bear our burdens, the hope to pass through disappointments, the peace to dispel our worries and the wisdom to stay close to you. 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 unjust policing practices, especially for the families and friends of those who have lost their lives as a result . . . (*give time for community to pray*). Give us courage to acknowledge our role – whether complicit or implicit – in mistakes and sins of the past pertaining to discrimination and racism. 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: Lead of all care and healing, heal those who are sick. Feed all who hunger. Give hope to those who feel helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors.

We especially pray for:

- Josh Baker
- Lemont Bell
- Amos Brown
- Tim Caldwell
- Freda Christ
- William Ensley
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Gazda
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carole Johnson
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Rick Messina
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Richard Schulz
- Lori Shownes
- Myra Steele
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Connie von Brunt
- Linda Ann Wassum
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams

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

- Randy Carpenter, friend of Marc & Karla Jensen

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.

We give thanks for all our college graduates. Those who have received undergraduate degrees and master's degrees.

- Noah DeGrace
- Courtney Gadza
- McCormick Grubb
- Karli Baumann Hann
- Jon Moe
- Josh Moe
- Mia McLain
- Nicholas Ruggiero
- Maddi Sabo
- Carol Schierlmann
- Nick Slattum

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

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

- L: Lord of all compassion, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all love and courage, 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 of 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

“Good Good Father”

John Tirro

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Well I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
Lord You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

You're a Good Good Father
Good Good Father

*CCLI Song # 7036612
Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett*