

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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**Prelude**

“Shall We Gather/Down to the River”

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.

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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*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 radical hospitality,

In a world shaped by conflict, where we seem to be slipping back into tribal divisions, you call us to welcome those with whom we seem to have absolutely nothing in common.

In a culture full of inequalities which only seem to be widening, you call us to treat each person as our sister and brother.

In a time of intensifying injustices which are found in every community, if not in every neighborhood, you call us to yoke ourselves to your challenging work for justice.

In a society that idolizes the lifestyle of individuals, you call us to value others above ourselves and to put the needs of others above our own.

Empower us by your Holy Spirit to be those who offer not just cups of cold water, but all that we are and all we have to those who are in our midst. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### The First Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

### 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 10:40-42

### The Message

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

*CCLI Song # 4768151*

*Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio*

## 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 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: Lord of all compassion, you have untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

We especially pray for:

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

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

- Carole Johnson, member and the mother of Brenda Cicensia
- 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 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 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 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.**



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**SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE**

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**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 Will Call Upon the Lord"

Annette Nolan