

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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### Prelude/Gathering Song

### 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, there has been no time when You have not been creating; no space where You have not been imagining.  
Before our earliest ancestors existed,  
you were dreaming and designing what people could be.  
We were born into the flow of your creativity and breathe our every breath in your company.

Come near to us, come alive in us,  
stir us like clouds caught by a summer breeze,  
call us to stay close to you like flowers growing on a trellis,  
and teach us to be as open to you like a seed sending forth new growth toward light of the sun.

Give us an expansive vision of what our world is and can be.  
Let us live in rhythm to the ways of your kingdom and be those who resonate with your call to be signs of your new creation.  
We surrender to you, abundant and almighty God,  
and offer to you our worship.  
In the name of Jesus, our Savior and brother, we pray. Amen.

**The First Reading**

Genesis 1

“Creation” by James Weldon Johnson

## 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

## Psalm 8

## The Message

## Song of the Day

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

### **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 wisdom and guidance, we ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit to help us pray in those times when we think we know what we need and in those times when we cannot even find the words . 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: God of all care and healing, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all those who struggle, suffer, and are in pain or sorrow. who face oppression and suffering.

We especially pray for:

- Josh Baker
- Lemont Bell
- 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
- Ward Misenheimer
- Anita Ortiz
- Jesse Priser
- Richard Schulz
- Myra Steele
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Harold Twitty
- Connie von Brunt
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams

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

- Lauren Bradshaw, friend of Sarah Sue Hardinger's family
- Bill Allred, friend of Dick & Marylou Kuklantz
- Jon Furr, extended family of Dot Furr

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: We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit for those reaching out to comfort the distressed. 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**