

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

October 25, 2020

Prelude

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship for Reformation Sunday

P: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

C: Come Holy Spirit and lead us.

P: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

C: The Way of change and testing, the Way of the desert and the wilderness.

L: But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

C: Come Holy Spirit and make us your own.

L: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

C: The Way of new learning and questioning, the Way of the River Jordan and the Upper Room.

L: No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

C: Come Holy Spirit and shape us anew.

L: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

C: The Way of joy in life and sacrifice, the Way of the Creation and the Cross. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession before God and each other.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Forgive us, God,

C: When we limit you,

When we remake you in our image,

When we claim our causes as your own,

When we box you in,

And explain you away.

In our attempts at understanding your ways, we end up whittling away all of the mystery.

Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us:

Awaken us to your blinding glory,

Confound us by your love,

Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,

Recreated in your image,

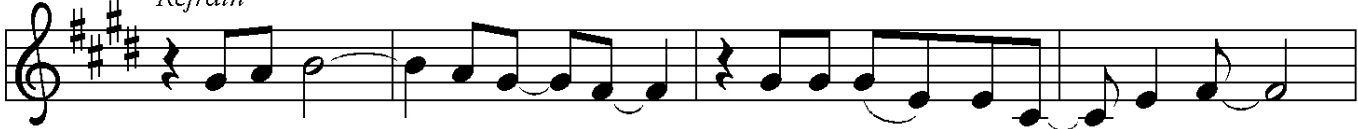
Grateful for all that we cannot know.

In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray. Amen.


P: My friends, God is not done with us, not by a long shot. We are more beloved than we can ever know, and God is working in us and in the world in ways far beyond our understanding. We begin anew each day as we live into God's forgiveness. In the name of + Jesus Christ, we have been completely forgiven. Let us greet with world as people made new in Christ. Amen.

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: Let us pray. Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve You and Your purposes.
Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work.
Trouble us with the greatness of Your command to make disciples of all nations.
Trouble us with Your great love for sinners and outcasts and our own slowness to make You our greatest love.
Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and time, talent, and treasure not invested in eternity.
Comfort us by drawing us to Yourself with the cords of Your unfailing mercy.

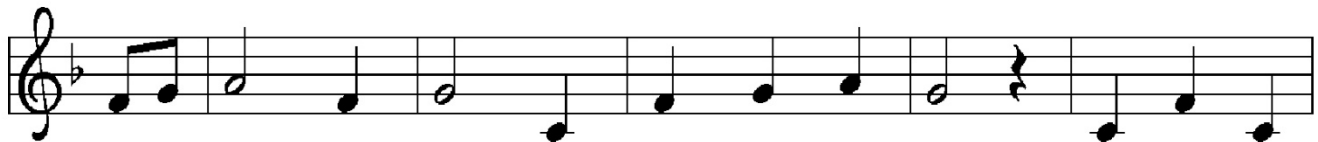
Comfort us, O Lord, with the assurance of our salvation and unending glory with You when we suffer and are afflicted. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of Your glorious kingdom when all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

—Adapted from the Prayers of Martin Luther

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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 22:34-40

The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

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. We know the world is so fractured and filled with chaos and crises of our own making. Teach us to pray, and when we struggle to pray, may your Spirit intercede with the words we cannot find. Come, Holy Spirit!

A brief silence.

L: Lord, on Reformation Sunday, we pray for your Church that we are a beacon of hope, grace, love and light in this world. May our open doors reflect your open arms to all. May our arms and hands reaching out to those in need reflect your love for all. May our forgiveness of one another reflect your forgiveness for all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all peace, our nation becomes more divided every week. Anger, frustration, disappointment, suspicion, and distrust have eroded relationships and perpetuated a mentality of “us and them,” so that the real issues are eclipsed and the real people who are hurting are forgotten once again. By the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray for the deep healing that must happen — *no more band-aids* — and we pray for ourselves who are called to do the difficult work of rebuilding trust and creating communities that resemble your kingdom of heaven. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Laura Angell
- Lemont Bell
- Freda Christ
- Brenda Cicenia
- Chris Cochran
- Marie Cochran
- Inez Easley
- William Ensley
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Dwight Hartsell
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Joan Moeller
- Clyde Mullis
- Tyler Oddman
- Dot Park
- Will Rhynes
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Hope Brown Russell and family
- Richard Schulz
- Mark Steele
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Jake Thrower
- Bill Toney
- Eva Toney
- David Townsend
- Tammy Whaley
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Lisa Williams

- 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 . . .

Myra Steele, sister-in-law of Jennifer Frisina
Michael Mason, nephew of Brenda Reid
Betty Murphy, aunt of Mona Ingolia
David Grace, uncle of Jennie Henderson
Tyrone Brunson, brother of Chris Jackson
Jamie Bruckman, friend of Harriett Easley
Joseph Drapala, brother-in-law of Chris Rasmussen

. . . 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 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. 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

"A Mighty Fortress"

Annette Nolan