

## Order of Worship

First Sunday in Advent

**November 28, 2021**

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### Call to Worship

Stand up and raise your heads!

**Our redemption is drawing near!**

Let us lift our hearts;

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

**The days are surely coming  
when all things shall be made new.**

### Call to Confession *(From Psalm 25:6)*

The psalmist pleads, "Be mindful of your mercy,  
O Lord, and of your steadfast love."

Trusting that the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,  
let us confess the wrong we have done and the good we have  
left undone.

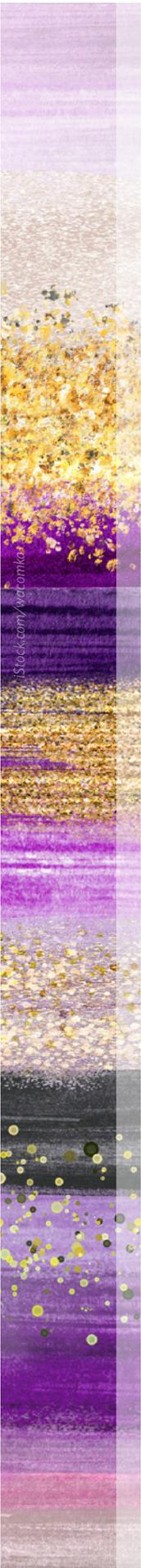
### Prayer of Confession

*(from "The Canticle of the Turning" and 1 Thessalonians 3)*

"Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is  
about to turn."

**Holy God, could it be true? Are you about to do a new thing to  
make our hearts sing? Even in a weary world when so many are  
tired and tired of being tired?**

**Forgive us for singing the same old song of cynicism. Forgive us  
for keeping quiet instead of speaking truth, for standing back  
instead of stepping up. Strengthen our hearts in holiness that  
we would increase and abound in love for one another and all of  
your creation. In the name of the One who is to come again, we  
pray, amen.**



### **Assurance of Pardon** *(from the Confession of 1967)*

“All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.” Therefore, be at peace; in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of grace, illumine our understanding so that we would rightly see ourselves in the world by the light of your love.  
Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

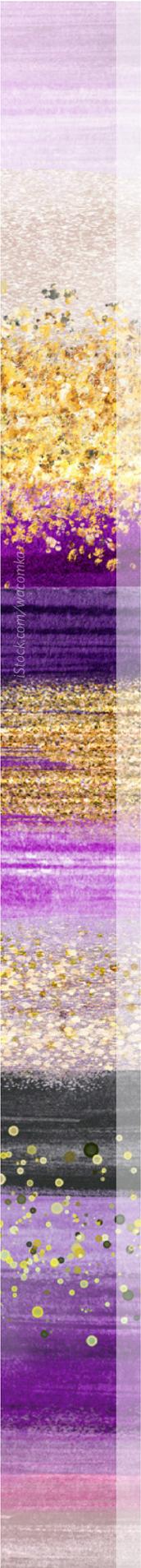
### **Affirmation of Faith**

*(from inclusive language version of The Confession of 1967)*

The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God’s reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God’s final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

### **Call for Offering**

We lift up our hearts and minds to the One who gave everything, responding with our tithes and offerings out of gratitude for the grace of God.



### **Prayer of Dedication**

Shine your light and love upon these gifts and these givers, O God. We offer ourselves as offerings, trusting that your spirit of power can make us instruments of your healing and wholeness. Through Christ, we pray, amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

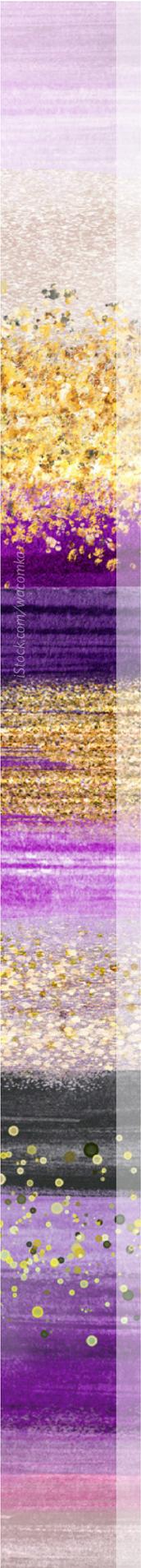
We give thanks and praise to you, Great God, for the wondrous things in the world and in our lives: for the shelter of home and fellowship, for the nourishment of food and faith, for love to share and for being loved.

We thank you for the dawn of a new day and for the soil that holds the old light. We praise you for the night of rest and the darkness that does its work of rejuvenation. We thank you for creation and re-creation, for this life and our hope for life to come. For nothing can separate us from your love.

As we enter the season of Advent, we look to the coming of your beloved Son to make all things right in a world where the "wrong seems oft so strong." Let the fires of your justice burn. By your Holy Comforter, lead the grieving and heartbroken to the still waters of peace.

Ignite in us a holy desire for compassionate peacemaking. May the world know that there is a grace in us that is not our doing but by the power of the One with resurrection light in his eyes, the same Jesus who taught us to pray:

**"Our Father ..."**



### **Charge/Benediction**

The world is about to turn. This is our Advent hope. Let us put our trust in the great power beyond this world who is at the same time ever so close — God with us. O come, O come, Emmanuel; may it be so.

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Liturgy written by Andrew Taylor-Troutman, pastor at Chapel in the Pines in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and provided for free distribution.

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