



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Call to worship *(Based on Matthew 3:3)*

Leader: Do you hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness?
Will you heed the prophet's call?

People: We will prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Call to confession *(From Hebrews 4:14-16)*

In Matthew 3:2, John the Baptist cries, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Let us confess our sins this Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Prayer of confession

God of the prophets, we confess our lack of preparedness and our tendency to wander away from you and your path. You call us to venture outside our comfortable spaces, yet we hunker down and excuse ourselves from faithful action. Forgive us, God. Call us again. Help us to respond this Advent in faith. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)*

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's birth this Christmas. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(Nicene Creed)*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call for the offering

God gives out of God's abundance. Let us respond to God's generosity with our own abundant giving.

Prayer of dedication

God of mercy, accept these gifts and multiply them for Christ's mission of love and grace for all the world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Wise and wonderful God,

On this second Sunday of Advent, we note the needs of those around us as we pray from various locations within our community.



From the bleachers, we pray for the awkward teen who doesn't get playtime, as well as the star under pressure to perform. We pray for the granddad whose backside aches from his cold metal seat, but whose joy over seeing his granddaughter play eclipses all discomfort.

From the grocery store, we pray for the mom juggling two kids while carefully choosing WIC-eligible food; for the older man in a motorized cart looking lost on aisle eight; for the six-year-old eyeing the cheap plastic toys in aisle ten, wondering if he'll get a gift for Christmas.

From the public library, we pray for the man in need of a shower, spread out with magazines at a corner table. We pray for the kid doing schoolwork at the computer because he doesn't have internet at home. We pray for the working mom perusing the latest novels, looking to fiction for respite and escape.

From the dollar store, we pray for the church elder in charge of the gift exchange, buying small gifts out of her pocket so everyone can participate, and no one will go without. We pray for the teenager trolling the aisles with friends trying to resist their pressure to shoplift.

From the church, we pray for the homeless family packing up after spending the night in the fellowship hall; the man in charge of making the coffee in the kitchen; the mission committee who ensures the church is responsive to their community's need. We pray for the pastor who studied and prepared for this Sunday hoping that worship feeds the spiritually hungry and nourishes the gathered souls.

Holy God, united as a family of faith and as your people, we lift these prayers for our community to you. In your mercy, hear and receive these prayers, Great God, and make us vessels for your grace and love.

Now, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying together,

"Our Father..."

Charge and benediction

Prepare the way of the Lord
with your repentance
with your forgiveness of others
with your ministries of compassion and grace.

May God's grace, Christ's peace,
and the Spirit's guidance be with you
today and always. Amen.

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