



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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Advent Worship Service
7:00 p.m.

Nighttime Prayer in Advent

Our Advent worship relies on scripture, stillness, and song – we hear and rest in God’s promises, and we sing. Songs have a way of finding us in the dark, giving words to our prayer, and helping the words of God’s promise move from our heads to our hearts.

GATHERING

This evening, we gather.

It is time to be still.

We listen for God.

It is time to be quiet.

We receive God’s grace.

It is time to hope.

We leave in peace.

It is time to rest in God’s love.

As we wait for Jesus’ arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

SONG *Be Still and Know*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'am. Be still and know. Be still. Be. Be.' and includes a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by two boxes labeled 'As desired' and 'Final'.

Text: Based on Psalm 46:11. Text and music © 2005, Barbara Bridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

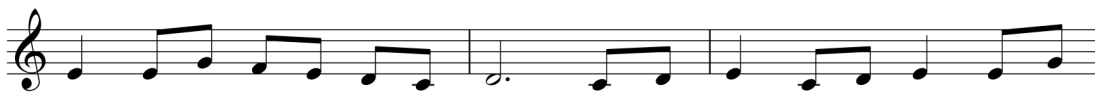
PRAYER—ADVENT WREATH

*We hear a line from our scripture readings and share in the day's prayer;
all join in singing as the wreath is lit.*

SONG *Out of Time*



1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a



watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search - ing
long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your
hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will



for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?
good - ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?
all pre - pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.

Refrain



You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time,



you tear the heav - ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a - cross the star - lit sky.

Text: Linnéa K. Clark with Emily Trubey-Weller
Music: Linnéa K. Clark

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DIALOG

Advent reminds us:

time is limited.

In our daily living and in the reality of the entire cosmos, we run out of time -

time to reconcile, time to prepare, time to make a change.

Yet even as we are running out of time,

God is entirely outside of time.

Our God who is eternal, whose compassion is infinite -

Our God interrupts our short timelines to dwell with us.

Emmanuel.

God is with us.

SONG *Wait for the Lord*

The image shows a musical score for the song "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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FIRST READING

The reading is followed by silence

SONG *O God, You Search Me*



1. O God, you search me and you know me. All my
2. You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
3. Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have
4. Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, Still I
5. For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, Gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
cern my pur - pose from a - far, And with
known its mean - ing through and through. You are
search for shel - ter from your light. There is
life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: Ev - er the
love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: In ev - 'ry
with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
no - where on earth I can es - cape you: E - ven the
won - der of who I am I praise you: Safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
mo - ment of life or death, you are.
pres - ent, my past and fu - ture, too.
dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Based on Psalm 139; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
© 1992, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications.

SECOND READING

The reading is followed by silence

SONG *Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today and For Ever*

Ostinato Refrain

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ,
yes - ter - day, to - day and for ev - er.

Text: Suzanne Toolan, SM, b.1927
Tune: Suzanne Toolan, SM, b.1927
© 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYERS

As we wait and yearn for God, we pray together for our community, for the church around the world, and for every need.

For the nations and their leaders: God, the heavens tremble, the stars fall, and the earth quakes. We pray for places in conflict:

silently, we name places experiencing civil wars, international conflict, violence closer to home, or persecution

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

For the natural world: God, you garden in the wilderness, even where it seems like nothing can grow. We pray for all creation:

silently, we lift up places in our community and around the world facing pollution, environmental disaster, flooding, fire, storms, or drought; we name local waterways, forests, or migration routes

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

For healing: God, you create accessible paths through rough terrain, and you love the bodies and minds of your people. We give thanks for diverse abilities and we pray for people in need of healing:

silently, we remember those on our hearts

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

For justice: God, you call us to rebuild ancient ruins, but we need your help to finish the work. Our need for healing is urgent. We pray for your justice and peace:

silently, we recall before God global conflicts and local struggles

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

For uncertainty: God, nothing is impossible with you, but it is hard for us to trust what we can't observe ourselves. We pray for your presence with us whenever we are uncertain or unsure:

silently, we entrust to God situations in which we struggle to find a way forward

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

Our prayers continue as we sing, and come forward to light a candle. The flicker of the flames reminds us of how brief our time is, and the growing brightness reminds us that God's endless mercy breaks into even the deepest shadows in our world.

SONG *We Walk by Faith*

*We walk by faith and not by sight,
through joy and woe, through dark and light.
We journey not alone, forsaken.
You walk with us, our God and friend.*

SONG *In the Peace of God Find Rest*



In the peace of God find rest; in the
pow'r of God find strength; in the love of
God find grace; in God's peace find rest.

The image shows a musical score for the song "In the Peace of God Find Rest". It consists of three staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "In the peace of God find rest; in the pow'r of God find strength; in the love of God find grace; in God's peace find rest." The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).



LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, ho - ly be your name.

Your King - dom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

**Optional*
Keep us from temp - ta - tion, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the King - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Silence

Loving God,

For the time we have, we say:

Thank you.

For the times we are given to live in, we say:

Thank you.

For the times your mercy finds us in the midst of it all:

Thanks you.

For your timeless love, we say:

Thank you.

SENDING AND BLESSING

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, bless you.

Jesus our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, bless you.

The Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope where none was found, bless you.

Amen.

SONG *Christ be With Me*

Christ be with me,

Christ before me,

Christ to the right of me,

Christ behind me,

Christ to the left of me,

Christ above me,

Christ below me,

Christ within me.

All depart in silence, or remain in prayer.

God, I am aware of this moment
in my life. Every second sweeps
away forever. But with you,
there is no end to our days.
Every sweeping second
spent with you is good.
Help me use my other
time today, just as
well as this. Amen.

Out of Time Devotional



Advent Message

Out of Time

Have you ever had a calendar “push notification” pop up on your phone? When Advent arrives, it’s as though one of those push notifications appears in our collective Christian consciousness: *Jesus is on the way! Would you like to plan something?*

This urgency is not entirely due to our human rhythms of remembering and forgetting. As the church year barrels to its close and then careens into a new beginning, our scripture readings are preoccupied with time—*the day of the Lord, God’s time* versus *our time*, the mysterious scheduling of *the day and the hour*.

This urgency is intensified by the unpredictable way in which the lectionary interacts with time. The gospel lessons skip backward and forward over Jesus’ life like someone trying to find the right track on a vinyl recording: one week, Jesus speaks of a day to come, the next week, John the Baptist speaks of Jesus’ coming.

In Advent, past and future collapse into God’s present, and the lines blur between Jesus’ first and second arrivals.

This is chronologically disorienting in a way that seems intentional. God, who created time and exists beyond it, is busy within, around, and beyond our human experience of time.

Just what is God doing when it comes to time and to us? This Advent, we reflect on how God uses our experience of time to meet us, challenge us, bless us, shape us, and call us into holy endings and new beginnings.

We’ll explore two senses of being *out of time*. Advent thrusts upon us the reality that time is limited. We run out of time to reconcile, to prepare, to make a change. Yet even as *we* are running out of time, *God* is outside of time entirely.

God’s infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fear as God enters human time to dwell with us: *Emmanuel*, God-with-us.

Pastors: Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

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