
EMBRACE | EMBODY | EXTEND



ADVENT HOUSTON

Easter Sunday

APRIL • 20 • 2025

WELCOME TO ADVENT!

Advent means “arrival” or “coming.” Many of us have a temptation to believe that we can live a good enough life or do the right things to make our way to God. We think that if we do enough of the right types of things, then God will allow us into His home. But the Bible tells us again and again that we are never the first movers in this relationship. God is always the initiator. He spoke all things into being; He created; and He pursues. He is the one who arrives. And we see this in the first advent of God.

John begins his gospel by saying, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (ESV). God the Son came to us in the first advent: what the church calls the incarnation. He didn’t wait for us to try and make our way to his heavenly abode. He didn’t stand above us to lecture us or condemn us. He came to us. In fact, he became one of us, taking on flesh, pain, sorrows, and death.

And God hasn’t stopped there. After Jesus came into this world to inaugurate the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven, after he died on the cross to atone for our sins, and after he was raised from the dead to defeat sin and death, He ascended to heaven to assume the throne. Scripture tells us that he will come again. And when he comes again, he is bringing the new heavens and the new earth with him.

It is in this second advent, that Jesus promises to make all things new. Though he has already dealt with sin and death, it isn’t until he comes again that death will be eradicated.

PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | HOLY SATURDAY | **EASTER SUNDAY**

EASTER

“Christ is the one in whom life and the new creation, the beginning again of our lives and all of creation, is assured. Our Easter calling is to let him live in us, to embrace by faith his new life, to let it take hold of us, to participate in him and his resurrection for the life of the whole world. In this way we are born again (John 3:3); we are made a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

...The message of Easter is that the way of being in Jesus, the way of living the new resurrected life is through participation. This message is very different than the message I all too frequently hear about Easter day. I hear that knowing God is accomplished through the way of intellectual evidence: Believe the facts and that will transform your life. I also hear that knowing God is accomplished through the way of emotion: Feel God. Feel forgiveness. ... But the emphasis of the early church fathers and the ancient church is knowing God through the way of participation. We participate in Christ by living the life of our baptism into his death and resurrection. This is a daily, existential, moment-by-moment experience as we choose in this or that situation to die to the sins for which Christ died and choose the life of the Spirit for which Christ was raised to new life.”⁵

Easter is a fifty-day period in the church calendar that lasts from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday (the celebration of God’s sending of the Holy Spirit). This fifty day period is not merely meant to be an extended celebration – although it is that. But, as lent was a time of preparation for new Christians to join the church, Easter was a time of continued education of those newly welcomed Christians. This instruction was intended to be a teaching of “mystagogy” – a leading through the mysteries, chiefly the mystery of the sacraments.

Thus, Easter became a time for Christians to learn the pattern of baptism and to learn the expectation and celebration of the Eucharist (what we refer to as Communion). We are to continue in this baptismal pattern – of dying to sin and living to Christ. We too are called to live into that pattern of repentance and faith – to become more and more like Christ in our journey as His disciples.

During this Easter season, may we learn better what it means to PRACTICE our faith by paying attention to our sins, turning from them, and then turning toward our Life and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

5 Robert E. Webber, *Ancient Future Time*

REFLECTIONS

Easter Day was not just a bursting forth of a dead person from the tomb. Easter Day was the overcoming of absolute nihilism, absolute total dehumanization, degradation.

— **Fleming Rutledge**

What happened as a result of the resurrection is unprecedented in human history. In the span of a few hundred years, a small band of seemingly insignificant believers succeeded in turning an entire empire upside down. As has been well said, "They faced the tyrant's brandished steel, the lion's gory mane, and the fires of a thousand deaths," because they were utterly convinced that they, like their Master, would one day rise from the grave in glorified, resurrected bodies.

— **Hank Hanegraaf**

The resurrection of Christ is the Amen of all His promises.

— **John Boys**

But, as we wait for him to come again, we wait with hope. And as we wait, we live in light of that hope – praying for and acting in the knowledge that God's Kingdom will come in bits and pieces even now, offering us glimpses of the way that it is supposed to be, the way it will ultimately be.

In the middle of these two advents of Christ, there is a third advent. There is the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, to help us to remember all that he taught and accomplished (John 14:26), and to help us as we follow him by faith. And Jesus tells us to follow him in the same way that he himself came. We are to leave our own comforts and to come into the places that he has called us. And so, in that way, we want to take the example of Christ's first coming to enter into the lives of our community. We want to bear witness to the coming of the Kingdom of God in its fullness in the future. And, we want to minister as the mouthpiece, the hands, and the feet of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 20:21).

So, Advent Houston is a **coming** of a group of Christians to the Texas Medical Center, to Rice University, and to the surrounding neighborhoods to embrace, embody, and extend the grace of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

We are so glad that you are here with us!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Select verses from Psalm 118 and 1 Corinthians 15

Leader: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
For his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
People: His steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let the house of Aaron say,
People: His steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let those who fear the LORD say,
People: His steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: If in Christ we have hope in this life only,
We are of all people most to be pitied.
People: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
**People: I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.**

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
**People: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Explanation of Flowering the Cross

During the opening song, we invite children or those who wish to remember a deceased loved one come forward and place a flower on the cross. If you did not bring one, there are extra flowers in the back.

The flowering of the cross is a tradition in the church that dates back to the 6th century, in which members of the church transform the cross with decorative flowers. In doing so, Christians are testifying to the fact that the suffering and death of the cross are the beginning of new life. That in Christ's death and subsequent resurrection, sin and death have been defeated. And that all who are united to him by faith will be raised with him when he comes again.

***SONG**

Agnus Dei/King of Kings

Agnus Dei words and music by Michael W. Smith © 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music

King of Kings words and music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, and Jason Ingram

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Intro

Alleluia alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

Holy holy

Are You Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb

You are holy holy

Are You Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb

Amen

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting

Without hope, without light

Till from heaven You came running

There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets

To a virgin came the Word

From a throne of endless glory

To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father, praise the Son

Praise the Spirit three in one

God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming

And to reconcile the lost

To redeem the whole creation

You did not despise the Cross

For even in your suffering

You saw to the other side

Knowing this was our salvation

Jesus for our sake You died

Chorus

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

Verse 4

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Chorus

PRAYER OF ADORATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 65:17-25, pg. 585

- [17] "For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
- [18] But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
- [19] I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
- [20] No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
- [21] They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- [22] They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

[23] They shall not labor in vain
 or bear children for calamity,
 for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
 and their descendants with them.
 [24] Before they call I will answer;
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.
 [25] The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
 and dust shall be the serpent's food.
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain,"
 says the LORD. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 24:1-12, pg. 831

[1] But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. [2] And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [3] but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. [4] While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. [5] And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? [6] He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, [7] that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." [8] And they remembered his words, [9] and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. [10] Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, [11] but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. [12] But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.**

*SONG

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Words by Edward Perronet and John Rippon and music by Oliver Holden

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All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
 Let angels prostrate fall
 Bring forth the royal diadem
 And crown Him Lord of all
 Bring forth the royal diadem
 And crown Him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all

**Any children that would like to come forward to be able to see
the baptism more clearly are invited to do so.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrant: Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: **One God and Father of all.**

Presentation of Candidate

Candidate for Baptism: Otis Bennett Walton, V

Celebrant: Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly
deserving His displeasure, and without hope except in His sovereign
mercy?

Baptized: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of
sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is
offered in the Gospel?

Baptized: I do.

Celebrant: Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of
the Holy Spirit, that you will try to live as we are called as followers of
Christ?

Baptized: I do.

Celebrant: Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Baptized: I do.

Celebrant: Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to pursue its purity and peace?

Baptized: I do.

Celebrant: Do you promise to love, encourage, and support Otis by teaching the good news of Jesus Christ, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

Members: We do, with God's help.

Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Let us join with him who is being committed to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell*;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic** Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent, and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim in word and deed the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being, rich and poor, sick and well, born and unborn, Christian and non-Christian?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon Otis your servant. Wash and sanctify him through your Holy Spirit, that he may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, he may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: I baptize you, Otis Bennett Walton V, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Child of the covenant, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own. Amen.

Prayer of Baptismal Blessing

Baptismal Welcome

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

ALL: **Joyfully we receive you!**

We receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

Jesus Loves Me

"Jesus Loves Me (This I Know)" words by Anna Bartlett Warner and music by Philip Percival

© Words: Public Domain, Music: 2004 Philip Percival

Jesus loves me; this I know,

For the Bible tells me so:

Little ones to him belong,

They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All: Father in heaven, wholeness, healing and flourishing come from what you have done. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, you have reconciled us with you. We come to you this morning forsaking our own efforts to earn your acceptance. We now turn away from them and rest in what you have done instead of trying to build a foundation on what we have done.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (ESV)

Leader: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken and music by Louis Bourgeois
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Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

There is no Adventurers today. Adventurers will resume next Sunday.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Easter Collect from the Church of England

Leader: God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader Intercedes for the world, Church, and the needs of our congregation.

Leader: We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying ...

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For Yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

SERMON READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-26, pg. 904

[19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

[20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23] But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24] Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (ESV)

Leader: The word of the LORD.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Taylor Leachman

“The Firstfruits of a New Creation”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are glad to have you worship with us today. Please sign-in on the pad located at the end of the row and record your information there.

OFFERTORY & PRIVATE PRAYER

All giving is a response to God’s generosity to you in all aspects of life, but particularly through the person and work of Jesus. If you are not sure what you think about Jesus or Christianity, or if you are a guest, we would invite you to refrain from giving at this time. Online giving is available at adventpres.org/give. You can also scan this QR code or place a gift in the offering basket near the entrance of the worship area.



SONG

Words and music by Andrew Peterson

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Risen Indeed

Verse 1

And so the winter dies with a blast of icy wind
Like a mournful cry it's giving up the ghost again
Another sheet of snow melts away to gold and green
Look at Peter go he's racing to the tomb to see

Chorus 1

Where has my Jesus gone?
He is not dead
He is risen, risen indeed

Verse 2

And now the flowers bloom like a song of freedom
Behold the earth is new if only for the season
And so the seed that died for you becomes a seedling
Just put your hand into the wound that bought your healing

Chorus 2

And let your heart believe
He is not dead
He is risen, risen indeed

Bridge

And the rain will fall on the furrow
It immerses the earth in sorrow
Mary, the sun will rise again
Mary, the sun will rise again
Daughter listen, listen
Daughter listen
He speaks your name

Verse 3

And Father Abraham could not have dreamed of this
Could never understand the end of all those promises
How all the pieces fit every star and grain of sand
Is safely hid in Jesus' hand

Chorus 3

Let ev'ry tongue confess
He is not dead
He is risen, risen
He is not dead
He is risen, risen indeed

Ending

Oh Mary, the sun will rise again
Mary the sun will rise again
Daughter listen, listen
Daughter listen
He speaks your name

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

FIRST COMMUNION

We invite the officers of Presbyterian Church in America, parents and godparents, and our first communion celebrant, *Otis Bennett Walton, V* to come forward.

The officers, parents, and godparents lay hands on the candidate.

Leader: Almighty God, we thank you that you have made Otis in your image. Your Spirit has made him, and your breath gives him life. You have plans for his welfare, Father, to give him a future and a hope. We thank you Lord for your steadfast love and your wondrous works to all of us, but particularly we thank you for your loving kindness toward Otis. We thank you that he has confessed that he loves you because you have first loved them, and that he has responded to your grace by faith.

People: Amen.

Leader: So, as he continues in this pilgrimage of faith, now joining your table, we ask that you would strengthen Otis, O Lord, with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of their life.

People: Amen.

Leader: Father God, let your fatherly hand ever be upon Otis; let your Holy Spirit ever be with him; and so lead him in the knowledge and obedience of your Holy Word, that he may faithfully serve you in this life, and joyfully dwell with you in the life to come.

People: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

ALL: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Nourish us, therefore, gracious Lord, so that in partaking of this sacrament of your son Jesus Christ, we may walk in newness of life, grow into his likeness, and evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Leader: And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole. And therefore, we join our voices with angels and archangels and the rest of your creation, forever praising you and singing:

SONG

Holy, Holy Holy Lord (Sanctus)

Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full
Full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ALL: **Your death, O Christ, we proclaim.
Your resurrection we affirm with joy.
Your coming we await with hope.
Glory be to you, Lord Jesus. Alleluia!**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and with your church in all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

Leader: These gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION AT
ADVENT**

Advent welcomes all baptized Christians to participate in the Lord's table. This includes all Christians, whether members at Advent or at another church. Children who have been baptized and admitted to the table by the elders of this church or the leadership of another church are also welcome to the table.

If you're still investigating Christianity, not sure what you believe, or simply choose not to participate, you may either remain in your seat or come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing. Feel free to use the prayers printed in the bulletin below. Non-communing children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing while their parents receive communion.

ABOUT THE ELEMENTS

- We serve both wine and grape juice for communion.
- Grape juice is available in the center of the communion trays; wine is available along the edge.
- All communion bread is gluten free.



PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen. A prayer of belief: A prayer for those struggling against sin: A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING AGAINST SIN

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

**A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT YET
MADE A PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Words and music by Charitie Lees Bancroft

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Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

*SONG

Graves Into Gardens

Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer

© 2019 Brandon Lake Music

Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

Before the Throne of God Above

Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again

Chorus

Bridge 1

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

Repeat

Bridge 2

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

Chorus x2

*CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Adapted from Hebrews 13:20-21

Leader: Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord!

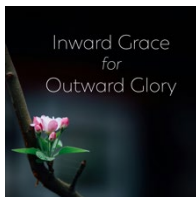
ALL: AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER AT ADVENT?

Joining Sunday is May 4th. If you're interested in becoming a member at Advent or just want to learn more about who we are, contact Kelley.Ellis@Adventpres.org. She will get you setup.

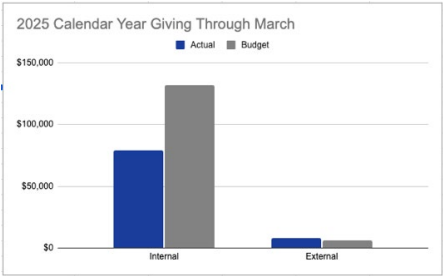


SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M

Please join us for our Sunday morning worship services. Our next sermon series is "Inward Grace for Outward Glory".

Location: Weekley Family YMCA Gymnasium

2025 CALENDAR YEAR GIVING



DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

These daily readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary and are intended to complement the readings heard in worship. The first three days readings reflect on the prior Sunday’s readings, while the last three days lead into the upcoming Sunday’s readings.

Date	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
4/20	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18
4/21	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Joshua 10:16-27	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
4/22	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Judges 4:17-23, 5:24-31a	Revelation 12:1-12
4/23	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	2 Samuel 6:1-15	Luke 24:1-12
4/24	Psalm 150	1 Samuel 17:1-23	Acts 5:12-16
4/25	Psalm 150	1 Samuel 17:19-32	Acts 5:17-26
4/26	Psalm 150	1 Samuel 17:32-51	Luke 24:36-40 Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31
4/27	Psalm 150		
4/28	Psalm 122	Esther 7:1-20	Revelation 1:9-20
4/29	Psalm 122	Esther 8:1-17	Revelation 2:8-11
4/30	Psalm 122	Esther 9:1-15	Luke 12:4-12
5/1	Psalm 30	Isaiah 5:11-17	Revelation 3:14-22
5/2	Psalm 30	Isaiah 6:1-4	Revelation 4:1-11
5/3	Psalm 30	Genesis 18-1-8	Luke 14:12-14 Acts 9:1-20 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
5/4	Psalm 30		



DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS – QR CODE
Use the table above or scan this QR code to access the Revised Common Lectionary daily readings via BibleGateway.com.

Media Release

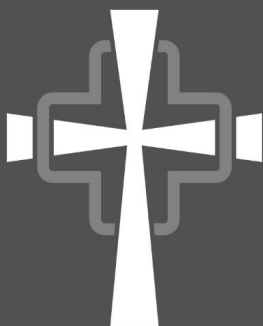
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