

# ADVENT HOUSTON

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 28

November 13, 2022

The season after Pentecost Sunday and leading up to Advent is referred to as Ordinary Time. It does not mean the time is boring and mundane, but rather “Ordinary” refers to the “ordinal” way that the church calendar counts the Sundays from Pentecost until the Season of Advent. Historically the church has used this time to more fully flesh out Christ’s work in the lives of her people, in the church as a whole, or in Christ’s Kingdom over all the earth. Robert Webber writes that during Ordinary Time,

Many worship traditions follow lectionaries that highlight the work of the Spirit in the mission of the church in the world. Other churches organize their worship life around a lectio continua, continuous readings from a given section of Scripture. Some worship traditions have also called this season ‘Kingdomtime,’ focusing on the kingdom of God that is present now and the one that will be realized in more profound ways in the future....

[Thus] the various Sundays are not connected by a particular theme. In Advent we await the coming of Christ; during Christmas, we celebrate his arrival; and at Epiphany, we proclaim that Christ is manifested to the world as Savior. During Lent, we prepare for the death; in Holy Week, we reenact his death; then in Easter, we celebrate his resurrection and complete the Easter cycle with the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. But in the nonfestive season of the church year, there is no unified theme that ties the Sundays together.

At Advent Houston, we want to use this “nonfestive” season to focus on our particular mission in this particular time and place that God has for particular individuals like us. We want to minister to one another in the distinct ways that we need to hear the good news of what Jesus has done, and we want to practice our faith in light of the truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

## REFLECTION

"The oldest and best sources we have for knowing about the life of Jesus...are the four Gospels of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This is not simply the view of Christian historians who have a high opinion of the New Testament and its historical worth; it is the view of all serious historians of antiquity of every kind, from committed evangelical Christians to hardcore atheists." - **Bart Ehrman**

"All doubts, however skeptical and cynical they may seem, are really a set of alternate beliefs. You cannot doubt Belief A except from a position of faith in Belief B." - **Tim Keller**

"Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is can't believe. Unbelief is won't believe. Doubt is honesty. Unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light. Unbelief is content with darkness." - **Henry Drummond**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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## \*Call to Worship – From Psalm 105

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name.

**People: Make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**People: tell of all his wondrous works!**

Leader: Glory to his holy name;

**People: Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Leader: Seek the LORD and his strength;

**People: Seek his presence continually!**

## \*Song – The Lion and the Lamb

### Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds

Kings and kingdoms will bow down

And every knee will bow as broken hearts declare His praise

Who can stop the Lord Almighty

### Chorus

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah

He's roaring with power and fighting our battles

And every knee will bow before You

Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain

For the sin of the world

His blood breaks the chains

And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

Oh, every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

### Verse 2

So open up the gates

Make way before the King of kings

Our God who calls to save is here to set the captives free

Who can stop the Lord Almighty

*Chorus*

## Bridge

Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Oh, who can stop the Lord Almighty  
*Chorus*

## Prayer of Adoration

### Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

[9] There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [10] He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." [11] And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. [12] And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. [13] And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [14] He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." [15] And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. [17] And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. [18] Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have

not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”  
(ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

Romans 10:5-17

[5] For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. [6] But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); [9] because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. [11] For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. [13] For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

[14] How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” [17] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Song – Pensive Doubting Fearful Heart

Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,  
Hear what Christ the Savior says.  
Every word should joy impart,  
Change thy mourning into praise.  
Yes, he speaks, and speaks to thee,  
May he help thee to believe!  
Then thou presently wilt see,  
Thou hast little cause to grieve.

"Fear thou not, nor be ashamed,  
All thy sorrows soon shall end.  
I who heaven and earth have framed,  
Am thy husband and thy friend.  
I the High and Holy One,  
Israel's GOD by all adored,  
As thy Savior will be known,  
Thy Redeemer and thy Lord."

"For a moment I withdrew,  
And thy heart was filled with pain,  
But my mercies I'll renew,  
Thou shalt soon rejoice again.  
Though I seem to hide my face,  
Very soon my wrath shall cease.  
'Tis but for a moment's space,  
Ending in eternal peace."

Though afflicted, tempest-tossed,  
Comfortless awhile thou art,  
Do not think thou canst be lost,  
Thou art graven on my heart.  
All thy wastes I will repair,  
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew,  
And in thee it shall appear,  
What the God of love can do.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

## **Nicene Creed**

*(The Nicene Creed was first adopted at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD)*

**Leader:** If you are a Christian, what is it that you believe?

**ALL:** **We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin (PCUSA – Book of Common Worship, 1993)**

**ALL:** **Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Leader: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on 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.

## Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and every shall be  
World without end! Amen, amen.

### ADVENTURERS

CHILDREN (K - 3RD GRADE)

All kids from Kindergarten through 3rd Grade are invited to go to Adventurers, a children's lesson and activity time during the sermon. They will be escorted back to the chapel after the Passing of the Peace.

## Prayers of the People (edited from Book of Common Prayer)

**ALL: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

Leader: For peace among the nations, that God may rid the world of violence and let peoples grow in justice and harmony.

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who serve in public office, that they may work for the common good. Lord, in your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For Christian people everywhere, that we may joyfully proclaim and live our faith in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who suffer from hunger, sickness or loneliness, that the presence of Christ may bring them health and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Congregants may here publicly offer their own petitions after which the Leader and People reply:*

*Leader: Lord, in your mercy*

*People: Hear our prayer.*

...

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.**

[22] Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. [23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. [25] And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

[28] And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD.

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

## **Sermon**

**Rev. Brooks Harwood**

"Jesus and Doubters"

## **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of the LORD be always with you.

**People: And also with you!**

## RETURN OF CHILDREN

*During the Offertory, "ADVENTURERS" teachers will bring the children back to the Sanctuary. Feel free to pick up younger children at this time as well. You may also wait to retrieve them, as childcare is provided for the duration of the service.*

## Announcements

WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU WORSHIP WITH US. PLEASE SIGN IN SO WE HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR ATTENDANCE.

OPTION 1: TAKE THE BLUE SIGN-IN PAD FROM UNDER THE SEAT AT THE END OF THE ROW AND RECORD YOUR INFORMATION THERE.

OPTION 2: SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA AND FILL OUT THE FORM THERE. YOU MAY ALSO DO THIS AFTER THE SERVICE.



## 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](https://adventpres.org/give). YOU CAN ALSO SCAN THIS QR CODE OR PLACE A GIFT IN THE OFFERING BASKET TOWARD THE ENTRANCE OF THE SANCTUARY.



# SERVICE OF THE TABLE

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## Celebration of Holy Communion

**People:** 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:** The LORD be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up unto the LORD.

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God.

**People:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Leader:** It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing...

People:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
Lord. san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

### Words of Institution

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All:** Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

Leader: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

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

Leader: The gifts of God are for the people of God.

*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.*

*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.

**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.

**PRAYER FOR 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.

## Communion Song – Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call

### Verse 1

Lord from sorrows deep I call  
When my hope is shaken  
Torn and ruined from the fall  
Hear my desperation  
For so long I've pled and prayed  
God come to my rescue  
Even so the thorn remains  
Still my heart will praise You

### Verse 2

Storms within my troubled soul  
Questions without answers  
On my faith these billows roll  
God be now my shelter  
Why are you cast down my soul  
Hope in Him who saves you  
When the fires have all grown cold  
Cause this heart to praise You

### Chorus

Oh my soul put your hope in God  
My help my rock I will praise Him  
Sing oh sing through the raging storm  
You're still my God my salvation

### Verse 3

Should my life be torn from me  
Every worldly pleasure  
When all I possess is grief  
God be then my treasure  
Be my vision in the night  
Be my hope and refuge  
'Til my faith is turned to sight  
Lord my heart will praise You

*Chorus x2*

## \*Closing Song – Red Sea Road

### Verse 1

We've buried dreams  
Laid them deep into the earth behind us  
Said our goodbyes  
At the grave but everything reminds us  
God knows we ache when He asks us to go on  
How do we go on

### Chorus

We will sing to our souls  
We won't bury our hope  
Where He leads us to go there's a red sea road  
When we can't see the way, He will part the waves  
And we'll never walk alone down a red sea road

### Verse 2

How can we trust  
When you say you will deliver us  
From all of this pain  
That threatens to take over us well  
This desert's dry but the ocean may consume  
And we're scared to follow you

*Chorus*

### Bridge

Oh help us believe  
You are faithful, you're faithful  
When our hearts are breaking  
You are faithful, you're faithful  
Oh grant us eyes to see  
You are faithful, you're faithful  
Teach us to sing  
You are faithful, you're faithful  
You're faithful

### Ending

No we'll never walk alone down a red sea road  
No we'll never walk alone down a red sea road

## \*Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission

### \*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace, now and forever.

People: **AMEN**

## Announcements



### WOMEN'S ADVENT DINNER

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Join the women of Advent Houston for a dinner kicking off the season of Advent. We want for you to connect with other women and hear from Marcy Leachman as she teaches "Waiting For What Is To Come".



### CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

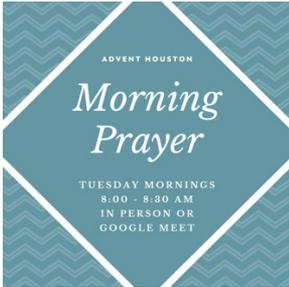
Mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and our Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.



### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

January 27<sup>th</sup>

Interested in church membership? Our next membership class will be held at the Leachman's on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Come and hear "All About Advent". More details to follow.



## MORNING PRAYER

*Every Tuesday*

Join us at the Local Office or via Google Meet on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. where we will go through portions of the Daily Prayer Project together.

## MORE EVENTS



Please check out our other events by visiting our website at [www.adventpres.org/events](http://www.adventpres.org/events) or by scanning the QR code here.

## QUESTION & DISCUSSION

SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR Q&D



Are we allowed to pray for things even if it isn't in God's plan?

answer in the comment below...



**NEXT DISCUSSION: NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

### Media Release

Advent Houston shares photos taken at our events in our monthly newsletters, on our website, or on social media for the purpose of promoting and highlighting the church's mission. By being present, you consent to being photographed and having these photos shared. For individuals who are not comfortable being visible in a shared photograph, please notify the church at [admin@adventpres.org](mailto:admin@adventpres.org) to opt out of the media release.

### Advent Presbyterian Church of Houston

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ADVENT'S HOUSTON EXISTS TO **EMBRACE, EMBODY, AND EXTEND** THE GRACE OF JESUS TO THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER, RICE UNIVERSITY, AND THE GREATER WEST UNIVERSITY AREA.

