



# ADVENT HOUSTON

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

20th Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 25

October 23, 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

Instead of pursuing their own prestige, that strangely addictive and debasing cocktail of vanity and public opinion, the Philippians are called to humility, the 'lowliness of heart' which agrees to treat and think of others preferentially. . . . The biblical view of humility is precisely not feigned or groveling, nor a sanctimonious or pathetic lack of self-esteem, but rather a mark of moral strength and integrity. It involves an unadorned acknowledgement of one's own creaturely inadequacies, and entrusting one's fortunes to God rather than to one's own abilities or resources. - **Markus Bockmuehl**

"The incarnation is a kind of vast joke whereby the Creator of the ends of the earth comes among us in diapers... Until we too have taken the idea of the God-man seriously enough to be scandalized by it, we have not taken it as seriously as it demands to be taken." - **Frederick Buechner**

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."  
- **Henri J.M. Nouwen**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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## \*Call to Worship – From Psalm 98

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**People: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

Leader: The LORD has made known his salvation;

**People: He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

## \*Song – Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me,  
save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought,  
by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping,  
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,  
and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and  
Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father,  
and I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling,  
and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not,  
nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance,  
now and always:  
Thou and Thou only,  
first in my heart,  
High king of heaven,  
my treasure Thou art.

High king of heaven,  
my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall,  
Still be my vision,  
O ruler of all.

## **Prayer of Adoration**

## **Book of Common Prayer**

Leader: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame

death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

[14] Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

[15] The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

[16] On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

[17] The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

Mark 6:30-34; 53-56

[30] The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. [31] And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. [32] And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. [33] Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

[34] When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things...

[53] When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. [54] And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him [55] and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. [56] And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD.

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

### **\*Song – Revelation Song**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Holy, holy is He  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat  
*Repeat x1*

[Chorus]  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings  
You are my everything and I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be  
To You the only one who's King  
*Chorus*

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water  
Such a marvelous mystery  
*Chorus*

(Derived from *Confession* written in Indonesia, 1981)

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe?

**ALL: On the basis of the God's Word, we believe that God revealed his will, his love, and his power to us in Jesus Christ, so that we may confess:**

**“Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.” God is the one and only source of life, blessing, and goodness. It is only He who may be worshipped.**

**The eternal God cares for and saves His creation with justice and truth, because of His goodness and love.**

**He redeems and saves us from destruction, so that we become his possession and receive eternal life. God is love, and has revealed himself in the history of his work of salvation as three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.**

**The eternal God the Father created everything, both that which is visible and that which is invisible.**

**The eternal God the Son was born and became man so as to carry out the salvation of the world. The eternal God the Spirit bears witness to the salvation of the world. He convinces us and seals this salvation in the hearts and lives of mankind. The Word of God declares this God to mankind so that He can be accepted and trusted in, on the basis of His faithful love towards His creation.**

**Amen**

## Confession of Sin

*(From the Book Of Common Worship, Church of Scotland)*

**ALL:**        **Almighty God, we confess we have broken your commandments, have sinned by selfishness, worldliness, unbelief and pride. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and have not walked humbly with you. Lord, Almighty God, forgive us and blot out our debts according to your tender mercies, according to your lovingkindness. Give us a humble and contrite heart that we might forgive others as you have forgiven us.**

## Assurance of Pardon – 1 John 4:9-10

Leader:     This is how God showed his love among us:

**People:**    **He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

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.

## Doxology

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

### **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

**ALL:** Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Leader continues to intercede on behalf of the community, the Church, and the world.*

**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 Readings

### Philippians 2:1-11

[1] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
(ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

Rev. Taylor Leachman

“Advent’s Mission and Values: Make and Form Disciples in Everyday Spaces of Life”

### 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](http://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 lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

### 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 – Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,  
For every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,  
And shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace,  
Be deaf when I complain?  
No still the ear of sovereign grace,  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access,  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet,  
Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet

## \*Closing Song – O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

## \*Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission

### \*Benediction – Zephaniah 3:17

Leader: The LORD your God is with you;  
He is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
He will quiet you with his love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing.

**People: AMEN**

# Announcements



## **MEN'S GAME NIGHT**

Join us on *October 28* at 6:30pm at the Leachman home whether you have game meat to cook or if you just like to eat! Empty your coolers and grill or fry some venison, duck, elk, etc. Register on our site or contact Taylor at [taylor.leachman@adventpres.org](mailto:taylor.leachman@adventpres.org)

Registration is \$10 for sides and drinks.



## **PROOF READING – THE LAST BATTLE**

*November 9th*

Join us for dinner, drinks (an alcoholic beverage inspired by our book), and a fun discussion on C.S. Lewis' *The Last Battle*. Any and all are welcome, so feel free to invite friends. Please RSVP to Taylor Leachman, [taylor.leachman@adventpres.org](mailto:taylor.leachman@adventpres.org)



## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

*November 12<sup>th</sup>*

Attention ladies of Advent! Mark your calendars for November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have a fellowship dinner at the Van Meters' home. We will follow up with details!



## **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".

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

A graphic for a 'QUESTION & DISCUSSION' event. The title is in blue and yellow. It includes a QR code for submitting questions, a purple box with a prayer question, and a white cross icon at the bottom right.

**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...

+

## **QUESTION & DISCUSSION**

*NEXT SUNDAY*

Join us next Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service for a time of question and discussion.

### **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.

