



ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

LENT

“Unfortunately some Christians live as though the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ never happened. Our lives become absorbed in the day-to-day experiences of life. We focus on name-brand clothing, the color of our houses, the size of our bank account, the year and make of our automobile, the prestige in which others hold us, and the symbols of our own power. We too easily forget our Maker and Redeemer, replacing God with things and ambition. Lent is the season that does something about this situation. It calls us back to God, back to basics, back to the spiritual realities of life. It calls on us to put to death the sin and the indifference we have in our hearts toward God and our fellow persons. And it beckons us to enter once again into the joy of the LORD - the joy of a new life born out of a death to the old life.”

Lent is a forty-day period in the church calendar that dates back to the 4th century. It was originally a time of preparation and spiritual discipline for all who were being baptized at Easter—the normal time of baptism for all new Christians and their families. As early as the 1st century, we see Christians using a time of preparation for their baptism, and with time, this preparation grew to forty days in association with Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness.

Lent is a time that beckons us to remember our own baptismal vows. Martin Luther encouraged his congregation during Lent to “live into [their] baptism.” And so, we too should live into our dying with Christ and rising with Christ. We too are called to live into that pattern of repentance and faith. We are invited to turn away from all distractions and sins and turn toward God.

This lenten practice can take many forms. We can choose to fast from food, reminding ourselves that Christ is our daily bread. As theologians Louis Weil and Charles Price remind us, “The psychosomatic unity of human beings makes it inevitable that a physical glut will cloud mind and spirit.” Alternately, we can fast from some of the distracting behaviors that we have slipped into, like scrolling on our phones at bedtime. Or, we can pursue new habits that help us to pattern our lives on the life of Jesus; we may commit to praying every day or to calling a friend to check on them every day.

During this lenten season, make time to consider the condition of your heart and to enter into a season of living out your baptism in repentance and faith.

REFLECTION

"Those who think too much of themselves don't think enough."

— **Amy Carmichael**

"Self-denial means knowing only Christ, and no longer oneself. It means seeing only Christ, who goes ahead of us, and no longer the path that is too difficult for us... . Self-denial is saying only: He goes ahead of us; hold fast to him."

— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

"When Christian believers care more for their own interests and security than for the good and salvation of other races and ethnicities, they are sinning like Jonah. If they value the economic and military flourishing of their country over the good of the human race and the furtherance of God's work in the world, they are sinning like Jonah. Their identity is more rooted in their race and nationality than in being saved sinners and children of God."

— **Timothy J. Keller**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Call to Worship – From Psalm 40

Leader: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

Leader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

People: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us.

*Song – God So Loved

"God So Loved" words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash
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Verse 1

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

Verse 2

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Verse 3

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love

Chorus 3

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save

Verse 4

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world

Prayer of Adoration

First Reading

Matthew 8:23-27

[23] And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. [24] And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. [25] And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." [26] And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. [27] And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD.

People: Praise be to You, Lord, Christ!

Second Reading

Romans 8:35-39

[35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? [36] As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Song – Help My Unbelief**

"Help My Unbelief" music by Clint Wells

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Verse 1

I know the Lord is nigh
And would but cannot pray
For Satan meets me when I try
And frights my soul away
And frights my soul away

Verse 2

I would but can't repent
Though I endeavor oft
This stony heart can ne'er relent
Till Jesus makes it soft
Till Jesus makes it soft

Chorus

Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
My help must come from Thee

Verse 3

I would but cannot love
Though wooed by love divine
No arguments have power to move
A soul as base as mine
A soul so base as mine

Verse 4

I would but cannot rest
In God's most holy will
I know what He appoints is best
And murmur at it still
I murmur at it still

To Chorus x2

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed & Catechism Questions 66, 67, & 68 from "To Be a Christian"

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe?

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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

* Christ's 'descent into hell' occurred in His death and burial, the Father's wrath toward sin being poured out on him in our place, so we would never have to taste His wrath.

** By 'catholic,' we mean the universal church made up of all Christians who are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

"He descended into hell"

Leader: Why does the Creed make a point of saying that Jesus died?

People: The Creed makes the point to emphasize that Jesus died a real, bodily death such as all people face because of our sins.

Leader: Why does the Creed emphasize Jesus' death in this way?

People: The Creed emphasizes Jesus' death to counter suspicions that Jesus did not truly die on the Cross, to celebrate the fact that he died there to secure our salvation, and to prepare our minds to grasp the glory of his bodily resurrection.

Leader: What does the Creed mean by saying that Jesus descended to the dead?

People: That Jesus descended to the dead means that he truly died and entered the place of the departed.

Confession of Sin

ALL: Most merciful Father, like Jonah, we run from You and Your grace. We struggle to believe that that we need Your grace, because we prefer to suppose that we somehow earned it or don't need it. We have too often withheld mercy from others because of our own hardness of heart. By Your mercy, change us, that we might more fully see all the ways that we run from You. And that we might see just how often You pursue us. We pray this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

*Assurance of Pardon – From Romans 8:38-39

Leader: I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

KYRIE ELEISON

Citation - Words: Ancient Text, Music: Phil Madeira



LEADER: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



LEADER: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son. Lord Je-sus Christ, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Have mer-cy on me, a sin- ner. Have mer-cy on me, a sin- ner.

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: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Leader Intercedes

ALL: Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader Intercedes

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader Intercedes

ALL: Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Leader Intercedes

ALL: Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Leader Intercedes

ALL: For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN.

[1] Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, [2] “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” [3] But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

[4] But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. [5] Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. [6] So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

[7] And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. [8] Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” [9] And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” [10] Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

[11] Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. [12] He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” [13] Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. [14] Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.” [15] So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. [16] Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Runaway”

Rev. Taylor Leachman

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

Leader: May 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

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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels forever 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.

Words of Institution

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia.
Our eyes have seen your salvation;
A light to enlighten the nations
And the glory of your people Israel.

People: **Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

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

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

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 – Declaring Glory

"Declaring Glory" words and music by Jon Guerra, Kate Bluett, Molly Parden, Nicholas Chambers, and Paul Zach
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Verse 1

When I was young
You woke me with the sound of song
The wind and rhythm drew me along
I echoed in the hymn of the dawn
I turned and turned
This dance that all the planets learn
In circles 'round the stars as they burn
I praise you as I orbit and turn

Chorus

Declaring glory, glory
Declaring glory, glory

Verse 2

The mountains rise
The forests grow before my eyes
The moments and the seasons unwind
Then turn again embracing the tide
The waters fall
And carve their way across my soil
Their canyons cutting deep in my soul
I praise you while the rivers still roll
To Chorus

Verse 3

New life begins
Your creatures dance across my skin
Like me they have your spirit within
But soon they fade away as I spin
They fall to dust
And dress me in decay and rust
Their secrets buried deep in my crust
I praise you in the layers of dust
To Chorus

Bridge

The rocks wear down
Beneath the passing of the clouds
The rivers run until they run out
I'll praise you 'til my fires run out
I'll praise you 'til my fires run out
I'll praise you 'til my fires run out

Ending

I praise my Maker in every age (x4)

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission**The Blessing**

"The Blessing" words and music by Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, and Steven Furtick
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Verse

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus

Amen, amen, amen (x2)

Bridge

May his favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family, and your children
And their children
And their children

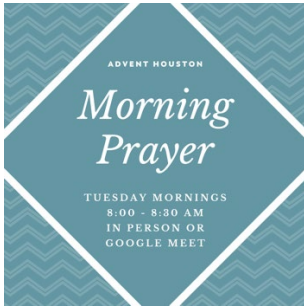
May his presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you
He is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you

Tag

He is for you (x6)
To Chorus

Announcements

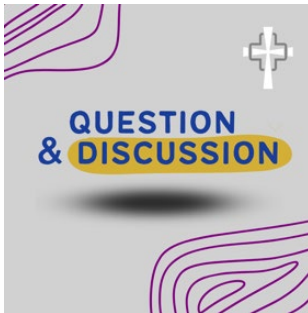


MORNING PRAYER

Tuesday mornings, 8:00 A.M.



Join us at the Local Office or via Google Meet to pray through the Daily Prayer Project. Click QR code, enter contact info, receive Google Meet link.



QUESTION & DISCUSSION

Next Q&D is March 26th



Scan the QR code for more info and to submit your questions.



ALL ABOUT ADVENT HOUSTON

Next Membership Class Coming in May



Scan the QR code for more information about church membership and our next membership class.



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 to opt out of the media release.

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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.

