



ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

14th Sunday After Pentecost
Proper 19

September 11, 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

"How many Christians relish a chance to depend on help from deacons, to need aid from their congregation's Agape Fund? What nation would issue a Declaration of Dependence and hope it would stir the blood of patriots? I think we understand very well that it's more blessed to give than to receive. We understand that it's easier too. A giver has power. A giver has options. A giver may choose to dispense grace or withhold it, almost like God. And so we find ourselves surprised that Jesus is so impressed by children.... The kingdom of God belongs to people like this. And you're never going to "get it" unless you learn to receive the kingdom as these children do." – **Cornelius Plantinga Jr.**

"Only the Christian religion, which in its essence is communicated by the eternal child of God, keeps alive in its believers the lifelong awareness of their being children, and therefore of having to ask and give thanks for things." – **Hans Urs von Balthasar**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Psalm 73**

Leader: Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

People: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Leader: For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;

People: But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

***Song – When All Thy Mercies**

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise
Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From Whom those comforts flowed.

Chorus:

Through all eternity to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise
For oh, eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise!

When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face
And when in sins and sorrow sunk
Renewed my soul with grace
Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.

Chorus

Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue,
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

Chorus

Prayer of Adoration

Book of Common Worship

God of all glory,
on this first day you began creation,
bringing light out of darkness.
On this first day you began your new creation,
raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death.
On this Lord's Day grant that we,
the people you create by water and the Spirit,
may be joined with all your works
in praising you for your great glory.
Through Jesus Christ,
in union with the Holy Spirit,
we praise you now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:27-31

[27] Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
[28] Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
[29] He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
[30] Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

[31] but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

[11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, [12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. [13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Song – Isaiah 43**

Verse 1:

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not
Overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus:

For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God),
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel
Your Savior (x2)

I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear) (x2)

Verse 2:

When you walk through the fire
You'll not be burned,
And the flames will not
Consume you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

*Affirmation of Faith

Ignatius of Antioch

(Taken from a letter written in 107 A.D. Ignatius was a Syrian pastor who became a bishop in present-day Turkey)

Leader: Jesus Christ was descended from the family of David and born of Mary.

People: He was a man.

Leader: He truly was born both of God and of the Virgin. He truly took a body; for the Word became flesh and dwelt among us without sin.

People: He was God.

Leader: He ate and drank truly, truly suffered persecution under Pontius Pilate, was truly [and not in appearance] crucified and died.

People: He suffered for us.

Leader: He was also truly raised from the dead and rose after three days as his Father raised him up.

People: He rose for us.

Leader: After having spent forty days with the Apostles, he was received up to the Father, and sits on his right hand, waiting till his enemies are put under his feet.

People: He reigns over us. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us make confession to God the Lord, and let everyone acknowledge with me their sins against God and their neighbor.

Leader: Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves.

People: Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt.
Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts.
Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains.
Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas.

ALL: *Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 103 (Adapted)

Leader: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us in Jesus.

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

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully granted that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The leader and the congregation will intercede with prayer requests, and we will respond with:

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

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.**

*Gospel Reading

Mark 10:13-16

[13] And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. [14] But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. [15] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." [16] And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD

People: Praise be to you, LORD Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Taylor Leachman

"Advent's Mission and Values: Embrace"

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

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.

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 – Psalm 34

I sought the Lord, and He answered me
And delivered me from every fear
Those who look on Him are radiant
They'll never be ashamed, they'll never be ashamed

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me
And saved me from my enemies
The Son of God surrounds his saints
He will deliver them, He will deliver them

Chorus:

Magnify the Lord with me, come exalt his name together
Glorify the Lord with me, come exalt his name forever

O taste and see that the Lord is good
O blessed is he who hides in Him
O fear the Lord O all you saints
He'll give you everything, He'll give you everything

Chorus

Let us bless the Lord every day and night
Never ending praise, may our incense rise (x3)

Chorus

***Song – On Jordan's Stormy Banks**

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus A:

I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land,
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

Chorus

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?

*Chorus***Chorus B:**

We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound for promised land
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound for promised land

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission**Benediction – Zephaniah 3:17**

Leader: 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.

Announcements



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

September 16 or October 1

Come enjoy a home cooked meal while getting to know other Advent women in a casual home setting. RSVP to juliannaleachman@gmail.com or 704.941.7208 by September 12.



DONUTS IN THE PARK

Join us on Saturday, September 17 from 9:00 - 10:30am at the West U Elementary playground at the corner of Edloe and University Blvd. We will have donuts, coffee, and water. Feel free to come and go or stay for the whole time! Email Josie Dudzinsky (josie.dudzinsky@adventpres.org) with any questions.



SEMPTEMBER 25 WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Worship will be earlier Sunday, September 10th for Rosh HaShanah.



OCTOBER 9 WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Worship will be earlier Sunday, October 9th for Sukkoth.

Please check out our other events by visiting adventpres.org/events or scanning the listed QR code.



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.

