

# ADVENT HOUSTON

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

21st Sunday After Pentecost  
Proper 26

October 30, 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

While all men seek after happiness, scarcely one in a hundred looks for it from God. - **John Calvin**

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”  
- **Amy Carmichael**

If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. - **C.S. Lewis**

“Our post-Christian neighbors need to hear and see and taste and feel authentic Christianity, hospitality spreading from every Christian home that includes neighbors in prayer, food, friendship, childcare, dog walking, and all the daily matters upon which friendships are built.” - **Rosaria Butterfield**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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## \*Call to Worship – From Psalm 67

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us

**People: That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**People: Let all the peoples praise you!**

## \*Song – All My Ways

### Verse 1:

In days of peace and days of rest  
In times of loss and loneliness  
Though rich or poor, Your word is true  
That all my ways are known to You

### Verse 2:

No trial has come beyond Your hand  
No step I walk beyond Your plan  
The path is dark outside my view  
Still all my ways are known to You

### Chorus:

And oh what peace that I have found  
Wherever I may be  
For all my ways are known to You  
Hallelujah, they are known to You!

(Ending: x2)

### Verse 3:

I do not fear the final night  
For death will be the door to life  
You take my hand and lead me through  
For all my ways are known to You

*Chorus*

**Bridge:**

Open up my eyes so I may see  
That You have made these ways for me  
Open up my eyes so I may see  
That You my God, will walk with me (x2)

## Prayer of Adoration

### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-7

[1] Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4] So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. [5] And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, [6] Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. [7] Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

**People: Thanks be to God.**

[2] And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD.

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

### **\*Song – Psalm 130 (I Will Wait)**

#### **Verse 1**

Out of the depths I cry to You  
In darkest places I will call  
Incline your ear to me anew  
And hear my cry for mercy Lord

#### **Verse 2**

Were You to count my sinful ways  
How could I come before your throne?  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze  
I stand redeemed by grace alone

**Chorus 1**

I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
On your Word I will rely  
And I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
'Til my soul is satisfied

**Verse 3**

So put your hope in God alone  
Take courage in his power to save  
Completely and forever won  
By Christ emerging from the grave  
*Chorus 1*

**Verse 4**

Now He has come to make a way  
And God Himself has paid the price  
That all who trust in Him today  
Find healing in his sacrifice  
That all who trust in Him today  
Find healing in his sacrifice

**Chorus 2**

I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
Through the storm and through the night  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
For your love is my delight

I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
On your Word I will rely  
And I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
'Til my soul is satisfied

## \*Affirmation of Faith

## A Prayer from Augustine of Hippo

*(Augustine was an African Bishop who lived from 354-430 AD)*

**ALL:** This Lord, our God, the Word of God, the Word made flesh, the Son of the Father, the Son of God, the Son of man, [was] exalted that He might create us, [was] humbled that He might recreate us. [He] walked among men and suffering what is human. Let every sigh be a panting after Christ, let that most beautiful One, who loved even the ugly that He might make them beautiful, let him be longed for. Hurry to Him alone.

## Confession of Sin – Based on the Beatitudes

Leader: Lord Jesus, you taught us that in Your kingdom,  
Blessed are the poor in spirit.

**People: But we have been rich in pride.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn.

**People: But we have not known much sorrow for our sin.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek.

**People: But we are rebellious by nature.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**People: But we have great desire for evil and little longing for Your true goodness.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful.

**People: But we are harsh and impatient.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart.

**People: But we have impure hearts.**

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers.

**People: But we have not sought reconciliation.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.

**People: But our lives do not challenge the world.**

Leader: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

**People: But we have hardly made it known that we are yours.**

## Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:24

Leader: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

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.

### 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

Book of Common Prayer

**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.**

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6] In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. [8] Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, [9] obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

**Rev. Taylor Leachman**

“Advent’s Mission and Values: Extend the Joy of the First and Second Advent”

## **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:

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 - san - na in the high - est." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

### 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 – All The Poor and Powerless

### Verse 1

All the poor and powerless  
And all the lost and lonely  
And all the thieves will come confess  
And know that You are holy  
And know that You are holy

### Chorus A

And all will sing out  
Hallelujah  
And we will cry out  
Hallelujah

### Verse 2

And all the hearts who are content  
And all who feel unworthy  
And all who hurt with nothing left  
Will know that You are holy

*Chorus x2*

### Bridge

Shout it  
Go on and scream it from the mountains  
Go on and tell it to the masses  
That He is God

(x3)

### Chorus B

And we will sing out  
Hallelujah  
And we will cry out  
Hallelujah  
And we will sing out hallelujah

(x2)

### Bridge x1

## \*Closing Song – Oh You Bring

Oh, you bring hope to the hopeless  
And light to those in the darkness  
And death to life, now I'm alive

Oh, you give peace to the restless  
And joy to homes that are broken  
I see you now, in you I'm found

### **REFRAIN:**

And you open the door for me  
And you lay down your life to set me free  
All that I am will serve you Lord

Oh, you fill those who are empty  
And rescue those in the valley  
And through it all you calm my soul

Oh, now you find me in my weakness  
And heal the wounds of my heartache  
And I worship you in spirit and truth

### **REFRAIN**

All honor  
All glory  
All praise to you (repeat)

### **REFRAIN**

And you open my eyes to see  
All the wonder and awe of Christ in me  
Jesus you're everything I need

## \*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.

**People: AMEN**

## Announcements



### 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>*

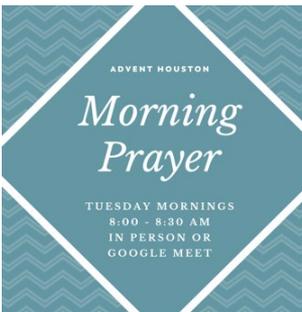
Attention ladies of Advent! Mark your calendars for November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have a fellowship dinner at the Van Meters' home. We will follow up with details!



### 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".



### MORNING PRAYER

We are resuming our morning prayer meetings. 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.

Please check out our other events by visiting [adventpres.org/events](https://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](mailto: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.

