



# ADVENT HOUSTON

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

11th Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 16

August 21, 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

"I don't believe in God, but I miss Him." - **Julian Barnes**

"It is surely one of the most characteristic failures of us Christians, not least of us who are called evangelical Christians, that we seldom seem to take seriously this principle of the incarnation. It comes more natural to us to shout the gospel at people from a distance than to involve ourselves deeply in their lives, to think ourselves into their culture and their problems, and to feel with them in their pains." - **John Stott**

"All religions and philosophies that deny the reality or the significance of the material, the fleshly, the earthbound, are themselves denied. Moses at the burning bush was told to take off his shoes because the ground on which he stood was holy ground (Exodus 3:5), and incarnation means that all ground is holy ground because God not only made it but walked on it, ate and slept and worked and died on it. If we are saved anywhere, we are saved here. And what is saved is not some diaphanous distillation of our bodies and our earth, but our bodies and our earth themselves. Jerusalem becomes the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). Our bodies are sown perishable and raised imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:42). One of the blunders religious people are particularly fond of making is the attempt to be more spiritual than God." - **Frederick Buechner**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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## **\*Call to Worship – From Psalm 71**

Leader: God alone is our refuge and hope,

**People: God is our shelter and protection.**

Leader: From our very first breath to our last,

**People: God's love and compassion never fails**

Leader: Come, lift your voices in praise to God.

**People: Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love.**

Leader: Proclaim God's glory to all the earth.

**ALL: Let's worship the Lord together.**

## **\*Song – Agnus Dei / King of Kings**

Alleluia, Alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns (x2)

Alleluia  
(You are) Holy, Holy  
Are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb (x2)

Amen

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

**Chorus:**

Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the Kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

**(Chorus)**

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint

By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who Has resurrected me

## **(Chorus x2)**

### **Ending:**

Praise forever to the King of kings  
We praise forever to the King of kings

## **Prayer of Adoration**

### **Old Testament Reading**

**Joel 2:28–32**

[28] “And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

[29] Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

[30] “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth,  
blood and fire and columns of smoke. [31] The sun shall be turned  
to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and  
awesome day of the LORD comes. [32] And it shall come to pass  
that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.  
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who  
escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be  
those whom the LORD calls. (ESV)

**Leader:** The Word of the LORD

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading**

**John 14:18–19; 25-28**

[18] “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Yet a  
little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.  
Because I live, you also will live.

...

[25] "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [28] You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*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 (x2)

#### **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)**

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

## **Nicene Creed**

*(A Translation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Version)*

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son].**

**With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## Confession of Sin

*(Adapted from Valley of Vision)*

**All: Holy Father, we sin—**

**Grant that we may grieve because of it,  
overthrow our envy,  
command our tongues,  
trample down our selfishness,  
deliver us from the idols of our hearts.**

**O God, the eternal One in Three, help us to know that  
all things are shadows, but you are substance  
all things are quicksand, but you are the mountain  
all things are shifting, but you are the anchor.**

**Give us grace to be kind, pure, and peaceable,  
grace to live for your glory,  
grace to be transformed into your likeness.**

**Take away our mourning and give us music**

**Still our sighs and fill our being with song.**

**Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, and Lord. Amen.**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Romans 5:1-2**

Leader: “[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

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

**People: Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.**

## \*Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

[19] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." [20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD

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

## Sermon

Rev. Taylor Leachman

"Who Is 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.*

## 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.

### 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 – Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?**

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known Him?  
Is not thine a captured heart?  
Chief among ten thousand own Him,  
Joyful choose the better part.

### **Chorus:**

Captivated by His beauty,  
Worthy tribute haste to bring.  
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,  
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

What can strip the seeming beauty,  
From the idols of the earth?  
Not a sense of right or duty,  
But the sight of peerless worth.

### **(Chorus)**

'Tis that look that melted Peter,  
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,  
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,  
Can alone from idols draw.

### **(Chorus)**

## **\*Song – Jesus I My Cross Have Taken**

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shall be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,  
They have left my Savior, too.



Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
O while Thou dost smile upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me;  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation  
Rise o'er sin and fear and care  
Joy to find in every station,  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
Heaven's eternal days before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

## \*Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission

## \*Benediction – Philippians 4:7;23

Leader: “[7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ... [23] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

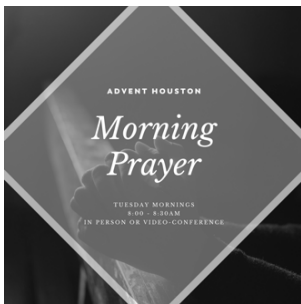
## Announcements

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.



### MORNING PRAYER

Join us every TUESDAY morning from 8:00 – 8:30 am at the Advent Houston Office (2617 Bissonnet St, Suite 200, 77005) or on Google Meet with an RSVP to [taylor.leachman@adventpres.org](mailto:taylor.leachman@adventpres.org) for a time of prayer utilizing the Daily Prayer Project's prayer resource.



### ADVENTURERS HANGOUT AT TINY'S MILK AND COOKIES

Kids grades Kinder through Third Grade will be hanging out at Tiny's Cookies on Tuesday at 5! Contact Josie for more information at [josie.dudzinsky@adventpres.org](mailto:josie.dudzinsky@adventpres.org) !

## DINNER AT LITTLE MATT'S

Teens & Tweens dinner!

Thursday, August 25

6 P.M. / Drop off & Pick Up

### TEENS & TWEENS DINNER AT LITTLE MATT'S

Kids Fourth Grade and up will be hanging out for dinner on Thursday at 6! Contact Josie for more information at [josie.dudzinsky@adventpres.org](mailto:josie.dudzinsky@adventpres.org) !

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

## 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.

