

ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

17th Sunday After Pentecost
Proper 22

October 2, 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

When you join a church, you make it visible. You give a living demonstration of the spiritual reality of the body of Christ. You show that even though you are an individual, you are a part of the body; you are joined together with others. You take the body of Christ out of the realm of the theoretical (1 Cor. 12:27) and give it a meaning that people can see. - **Donald Whitney**

Man with all his shrewdness is as stupid about understanding by himself the mysteries of God, as an ass is incapable of understanding musical harmony. - **John Calvin**

As long as you have mystery you have health; when you destroy mystery you create morbidity. - **G.K. Chesterton**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Psalm 37**

Leader: Delight yourself in the LORD,

People: And he will give you the desires of your heart.

Leader: Commit your way to the LORD;

People: Trust in him, and he will act.

Leader: He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

People: And your justice as the noonday.

***Song – Crown Him With Many Crowns**

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him
Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love,
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His wond'ring eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high

Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never fail
Throughout eternity.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:9-14

[9] Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
 "Behold your God!"

[10] Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.

[11] He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

[12] Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
 and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure

and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

[13] Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord,
or what man shows him his counsel?

[14] Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?

Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding? (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

People: Thanks be to God.

First New Testament Reading

Ephesians 4:11-16

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Song – No Longer Slaves**

Verse 1:

You unravel me
With a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance
From my enemies
'Til all my fears are gone

Chorus:

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

Verse 2:

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again
Into a family
Your blood flows through my veins
Chorus x2

Bridge:

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears are drowned in perfect love
You rescued me
So I could stand and say
I am a child of God (x2)

I am a child of God
Yes, I am a child of God
Yes, I am a child of God

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.**

Footnote:

* 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.

Confession of Sin

Written by Giorgio Hiatt – Based on Micah 6:8

Leader: Almighty and Merciful God, you have told to us that as your people we are to love mercy, practice justice, and walk humbly with you. Our lives, however, do not measure up.

Leader: We have not practiced justice.

People: **Instead, we have acted in ways that promote our own comfort and advancement. And we have often done so at the expense of our neighbors—unmoved and insensitive to how our actions might effect the greater community.**

Leader: We have not loved mercy.

People: **Instead, we have loved control over our lives and the lives of our neighbors. We want to win arguments more than restore relationships; we want to be generous or forgiving, only if we can see its direct benefit on us.**

Leader: We have not walked humbly with You.

People: **Instead, we have run in arrogance and have clung to self-**

righteousness. We strut through life as if we needed no friends, no family, and worst of all, no God.

Leader: But we know that you are our God and Father and we can come to you for forgiveness.

People: So we ask you, God and Father, forgive us for our offenses against you and our neighbor. Subdue everything in us which is contrary to your purposes. By the power of your Spirit make us a community, which acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with you. Through Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7-8

Leader: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

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."

***Song – The Church's One Foundation – Verses 1 & 6**

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

Joining Advent Houston

Elder: Do you acknowledge yourself to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy? Do You?

New Members: We do.

Elder: Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel? Do You?

New Members: We do.

Elder: Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ? Do You?

New Members: We do.

Elder: Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability? Do You?

New Members: We do.

Elder: Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace? Do You?

New Members: We do.

Pastor: Having confessed the faith and promised to participate in the life of the church, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

New Members: We gladly receive your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation and the mission of the church. We will strive to live lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called and will work with you to embrace, embody, and extend the grace of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for new members to this church who have been called to Advent Houston. Bless them in their life's journey; nourish their souls and be a light on their path. We thank you that you have given them this new spiritual home here at Advent. May their lives be enriched through ministry and community, may they be blessed and may they each bring their gifts into your service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

All: 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

Book of Common Prayer

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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.**

Second New Testament Reading

Romans 11:33-36

[33] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

[34] "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

[35] "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

[36] For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Taylor Leachman

"Advent's Mission and Values: Embrace Truth and Mystery"

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.

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 melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The second staff starts with a repeat sign. The third and fourth staves continue the melody and lyrics. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 126

Verse 1:

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Chorus:

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy

Verse 2:

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord
Chorus

Ending:

All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy (x3)

***Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission**

***Benediction Song – The Blessing**

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

Amen, amen, amen (x3)

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 (x4)

Amen, amen, amen (x2)

Announcements



**ADVENT
HOUSTON**

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

*October 9 - Worship at 10:00am
October 16 - Worship at 4:00pm

*Note the different times on the 25th and the 9th

UPCOMING SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

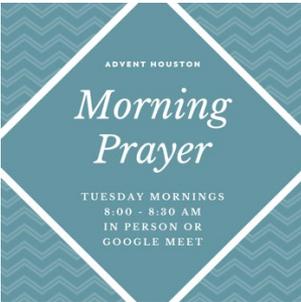
Please take note of the irregular times for next Sunday. After today, the 2nd, we have one more Sunday (October 9th) where we will meet here in the morning at 10 a.m. instead of in the afternoon. As of October 16th, in a couple weeks, we will resume our regular 4 p.m. service times.



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



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.



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

Registration is \$10 for sides and drinks.

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.

Advent Presbyterian Church of Houston

2617 Bissonnet St
Suite 200, #227
Houston, TX 77005

(713) 364-6748

adventpres.org

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.

