

ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

18th Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 23

October 9, 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

"And since the gospel does not come as a disembodied message, but as the message of a community which claims to live by it and which invites others to adhere to it, the community's life must be so ordered that it "makes sense" to those who are so invited." - **Leslie Newbigin**

"The church meets to imagine what our lives can be like if the gospel were true." - **Walter Brueggemann**

"The North American church at present is conspicuous for replacing the Jesus way with the American way." - **Eugene Peterson**

"God has chosen to save the world through the cross, through the shameful and powerless death of the crucified Messiah. If that shocking event is the revelation of the deepest truth about the character of God, then our whole way of seeing the world is turned upside down... all values are transformed... God refuses to play games of power and prestige on human terms." - **Richard Hays**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Psalm 66:1-3a**

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: Sing the glory of his name;

Leader: Give to him glorious praise!

People: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

***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.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:1-8

[1] My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
[2] for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
[3] Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
[4] So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.
[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
[6] In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

[7] Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
[8] It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD

People: Thanks be to God.

First New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4] But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5] For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6] So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Song – Your Labor Is Not In Vain**

[Verse 1]

Your labor is not in vain

Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained

Your planting and reaping are never the same

But your labor is not in vain.

[Verse 2]

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown.

[Chorus]

I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you,
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain.

[Verse 3]

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
For all that is old will at last be made new:
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

Chorus

[Verse 4]

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
And all that is broken be healed.

Chorus x2

***Affirmation of Faith**

Huria Kristen Batak Protestan

*From Confession of Faith of the Batak Protestant Church organized
in 1930 in Sumatra, Indonesia*

Leader: We believe and confess:

People: God is one, without beginning and end, almighty, unchangeable, faithful, omniscient, inscrutable, a righteous judge, of great mercy, gracious.

Leader: Our God is one, and also triune, namely: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

People: God the Father creates, preserves, and rules all things visible and invisible.

Leader: He fills heaven and earth and is true, holy, and loving..

People: God the Son, who became man, was born of the Virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and is called Lord Jesus.

Leader: Two natures are found in him, namely the divine and human, inseparable in one person. Jesus Christ is true God but also true man.

People: He suffered in agony at the time of the rule of Pilate, was crucified and died in order to deliver us from sin, from death and from the power of the devil.

Leader: He became the perfect sacrifice to make reconciliation with God because of all the sins of mankind. He was buried, rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God Jehovah, his Father who has glory forever.

People: He is in heaven interceding for us, ruling everything, until he will come again to the earth to judge the quick and the dead.

Leader: God the Holy Spirit calls and teaches the Church and preserves it in faith and holiness in the gospel for the Glory of God.

People: This we believe and confess. Amen

Confession of Sin

Adapted from Christ Central Church – Charlotte, NC

ALL: Our God, Creator and Redeemer, to know you is to find the fulfillment of our deepest longing. How foolishly we seek completion elsewhere! We pursue idols that leave us empty and lost. We fail to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We fail to love our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us,

**Almighty God, for our idolatry, for our unfaithfulness.
Forgive us for the sake of your faithful Son, Jesus Christ. And
grant that from now on we might serve you in the newness
of life. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Lamentations 3:21-23

Leader: But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

**People: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies
never come to an end; they are new every morning; great
is your faithfulness!**

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

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name
may be united in your truth, live together in your love,
and reveal your glory in the world.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Congregants may here publicly offer their own petitions after which the Leader and People reply:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.)

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.**

[14] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. [19] Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20] And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ [21] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [22] And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ [23] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ [26] But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Taylor Leachman

“Advent's Mission and Values: Embody Jesus in Kingdom Ministry”

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 – He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

REFRAIN:

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

REFRAIN

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last

REFRAIN (2X)

***Closing Song – We Will Feast**

[Chorus]

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

[Verse 1]

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up
Chorus

[Verse 2]

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength
Chorus

[Verse 3]

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful One
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom
Chorus

***Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission**

Benediction

Jude 24-25

Leader: Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

People: Amen.

Announcements



UPCOMING SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

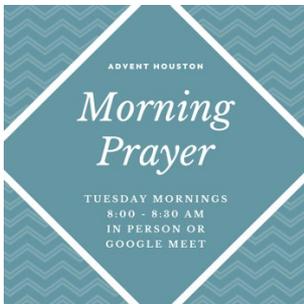
Please take note that we will be returning to our normal 4:00 p.m. services after today!



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.

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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.

