



# ADVENT HOUSTON

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

January 22, 2023

## EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany is a time of enlightenment. The word Epiphany comes from the a Greek word meaning “to bring of light.” The season is a five to nine week period celebrating and remembering the time that God manifested Jesus as the Son of God as the Savior to and for the world.

During Christmas we joyfully celebrated the coming of [the] light in the birth of Jesus. Now the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 brings this theme to culmination - the light of Christ made manifest to the whole world as symbolized by the Gentile Magi from the East. Thus the day of Epiphany and the season that follows complete what is sometimes called in the liturgical year the Cycle of Light.

Twenty centuries after the birth and ministry of Jesus, we can take it for granted that Jesus was not just the Anointed One for Israel, but that He was the promised Messiah (meaning anointed one) that would bring salvation to all peoples, all tribes, and all nations. So, the season of Epiphany is a time when we remember that Jesus was made manifest to the Wise Men who came to worship him. It is a time when we remember that manifests his ministry and power to the world around him. And it is a time when we begin to more fully contemplate what it means for us to participate in extending his light to the nations. Allow for this season, to be a time when you think more about how you might be able to make Jesus' story manifest in your own life and to the lives of others.

## REFLECTION

Repentance is more than just sorrow for the past; repentance is a change of mind and heart, a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as king in self's place.

— **J.I. Packer**

"One very difficult aspect of sin is that my sin never feels like sin to me. My sin feels like life to me, plain and simple. My heart is an idol factory, and my mind is an excuse-making factory."

— **Rosaria Champagne Butterfield**

By opening our lives to God in Christ we become new creatures. This experience, which Jesus spoke of as the new birth, is essential if we are to be transformed nonconformists.... Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit.

— **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

— **St. Patrick, 5th Century Missionary to Ireland**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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## \*Call to Worship – From Psalm 27

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**People: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life.**

## \*Song – Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee  
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea!  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## Prayer of Adoration

Leader: Dear Lord, thank you for the lives that you've given us. Thank you for the chance to feel sunshine, to taste fruit, to swim in water or to watch the rain. Thank you for our homes, families and friends. Thank you for our church and your leading of it. And thank you for the chance to know and serve you, now and forever. Through Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## First Reading

Isaiah 5:18-23

- [18] Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood,  
who draw sin as with cart ropes,  
[19] who say: "Let him be quick,  
let him speed his work  
that we may see it;  
let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near,  
and let it come, that we may know it!"  
[20] Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!  
[21] Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!  
[22] Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine,  
and valiant men in mixing strong drink,  
[23] who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
and deprive the innocent of his right! (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-10

[1] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

[5] Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] On account of these the wrath of God is coming. [7] In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. [8] But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. [9] Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Song – How Great Thou Art**

### **Verse 1**

Oh Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

### **Refrain**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

### **Verse 2**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

*Refrain*

### **Verse 3**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

*Refrain*

## \*Affirmation of Faith

### The Apostles' Creed & Catechism Questions 42, 45, 46 & 47 from "To Be a Christian"

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe?

**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.**

\* 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.

Leader: Why do you call God the Father "Creator"?

**People: I call God the Father "Creator" because he made all things. He creates and sustains all things through his Word, and gives life to all creatures through his Spirit.**

Leader: Was the world that God created good?

**People: Yes. God created all things and called them "very good." However, through sin, evil and death have come into the world and corrupted it.**

Leader: If God created the world good, why do we sin?

**People: Adam and Eve rebelled against God, thus bringing upon all humanity pain, toil, alienation from God and each other, and death. I have inherited this fallen and corrupted human nature; consequently, I too sin and fall short of God's glory.**

Leader: What are the consequences of sin?

**People: Because of sin, those apart from Christ are spiritually dead, separated from God, under his righteous condemnation, and without hope.**

## Confession of Sin

(Edited from Rev. Giorgio Hiatt)

**ALL: Our Father and our God, as you have sent the light into our dark world and darkened hearts, we have become more aware of our sin. You have taught us that:**

Leader: Love is patient,

**People: But we are often impatient.**

Leader: Love is kind,

**People: But we are often rude.**

Leader: Love is not envious,

**People: But we regularly covet others' lives or desire to see them fail.**

Leader: Love is not arrogant,

**People: But we repeatedly think too much of ourselves**

Leader: Love does not insist on its own way,

**People: But we frequently want others to bend to our will.**

Leader: Love is not resentful,

**People: But we often to harbor grudges rather than pursue forgiveness.**

Leader: Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

**People: But we habitually celebrate victories believing that the ends often justify the means.**

Leader: Love endures all things,

**People: Yet we so easily retreat when life gets hard.**

**ALL: Help us, loving God, to put off our selfish ways and to put on the selfless love of Christ.**



## \*Assurance of Pardon

John 8:12

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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 of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

### Verse 1

Lord, bid your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold

### Verse 2

This is the Savior of the world  
The Gentile's promised light  
God's glory dwelling in our midst  
The joy of Israel

# 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: Lord, you are the faithful guide of those who seek you with a pure heart:

**People: Make known your glory.**

Leader: You came among us to usher in your kingdom of peace:

**People: Make known your glory.**

Leader: O Lord, encompassed in light as with a cloak, you conquer the darkness of our night:

**People: Make known your glory.**

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

*Leader: Lord, we pray*

**People: Make known your glory.**

...

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.**

[17] Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. [18] They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. [19] They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. [20] But that is not the way you learned Christ!—[21] assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, [22] to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, [23] and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, [24] and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Rev. Taylor Leachman**

“New Years Rhythms: Put Off - Put On”

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Leader: May 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

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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:** Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. By him, your only Son, who restored to us peace through the blood of his cross, you willed to reconcile all creatures. In him you have led us to the knowledge of your truth, that bound together by one faith and one baptism we might become his body. Through him you have given your Holy Spirit to all peoples to work marvels by innumerable gifts and an abundant variety of graces. Gathering us together in unity, your Spirit dwells in the hearts of all your children, filling the whole Church with his presence and guiding it with wisdom from above. And so, with steadfast love, we proclaim your glory and join with hosts of angels in their triumphant hymn of praise:

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 -  
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 hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

### Words of Institution

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Chris will come again.**

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia.  
Our eyes have seen your salvation;  
A light to enlighten the nations  
And the glory of your people Israel.

**People: Alleluia!**

Leader: Come and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with  
thanksgiving!

*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

### Verse 1

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

### Verse 2

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

### Verse 3

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*

### Bridge

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



## \*Closing Song – O Church Arise

### Verse 1

O church arise and put your armor on  
Hear the call of Christ our Captain  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given  
With shield of faith and belt of truth  
We'll stand against the devil's lies  
An army bold whose battle cry is Love  
Reaching out to those in darkness

### Verse 2

Our call to war to love the captive soul  
But to rage against the captor  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole  
We will fight with faith and valor  
When faced with trials on every side  
We know the outcome is secure  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died  
An inheritance of nations

### Verse 3

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet  
As the Son of God is stricken  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet  
For the Conqueror has risen  
And as the stone is rolled away  
And Christ emerges from the grave  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him

### Verse 4

So Spirit come put strength in every stride  
Give grace for every hurdle  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful  
As saints of old still line the way  
Retelling triumphs of His grace  
We hear their calls and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in glory

## \*Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission

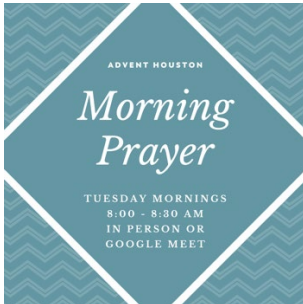
### \*Benediction

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
Teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,  
To accept his truth more faithfully,  
And to share his life more lovingly;  
That by the power of the Holy Spirit  
You may come as one family to the Kingdom of the  
Father.

Leader: And the blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always.

**ALL: Amen**

## Announcements



### **MORNING PRAYER**

*Tuesday mornings, 8:00 A.M.*

Join us at the Local Office or via Google Meet on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM where we will go through portions of the Daily Prayer Project together. Contact Beverly for the Google Meet link.

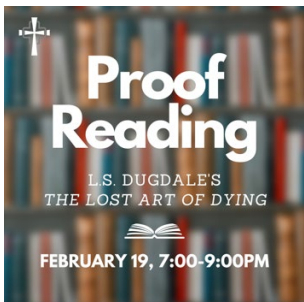


### **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

*January 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:00 P.M.*

Interested in church membership? Our next membership class will be held at the Leachman's on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Come and hear "All About Advent". Click the QR code to register.

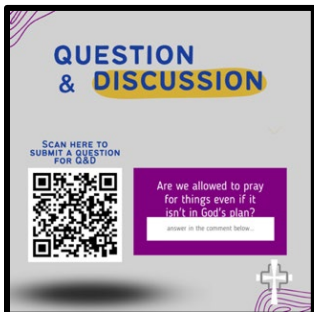




**PROOF READING**

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Come and discuss the book *The Lost Art of Dying* by L.S. Dugdale. Whether you have read the book, or whether you want to just sit and enjoy the conversation, we would love for you to come!



**NEXT DISCUSSION: January 29<sup>th</sup>**



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

January 29<sup>th</sup> after the worship service

In addition to our Question & Discussion time, we will hold our first annual Congregational Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.



### 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.

