

Advent Sunday Year B

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Introit

As the bible is processed into the church, the following is sung three times:

Three times through

Pre - - pare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre - - pare ye the way of the Lord.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics 'Pre - - pare ye the way of the Lord.' are written below each staff. A vertical label 'Three times through' is placed to the right of the second staff.

Call to worship and lighting of the Advent candles

Christ came to bring salvation, and has promised to come again.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin and injustice,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this wreath may remind us to prepare for Christ's arrival,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Listen to this prophecy of Isaiah:

Though darkness covers the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples of the earth,
yet the Lord shall arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and Kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Is. 60.2-3

The first Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings the first verse of the following song through twice:

Song TiS 286 *Light one candle*

When the singing has finished, the minister says:

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
**May the light sent by God shine in the darkness
to show us the way of salvation.**

Prayer of confession

In a moment of quiet, let us confess to God our fear, our sin, our inattentiveness to Christ's coming . . .

Because we are busy to prepare for the holidays,
but lazy to prepare for your coming,

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we are awake with our buying
but asleep with our prayer,

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have forgotten the Advent disciplines,
because they are crowded out by end of year functions
and Christmas celebrations that arrive too early,

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Listen to the word of the Apostle:

I give thanks to God always because of the grace that has been given to you in Jesus Christ . . . God will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of Christ Jesus.

I Cor 1.4, 8

Christ has this word of grace, then, for everyone who acknowledges their lostness and calls out to God for mercy and help in finding the path to life once more: 'Your sins are forgiven.' **Thanks be to God!**

The peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

A sign of peace is shared.

News and notices of the community

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet,
a light to our path.

Scripture Isaiah 64.1-9 – *as children's story*
 Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

I Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 13.24-37

Lord, may your word ever live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Homily

Canticle of faith TiS 265 'Come, O come Emmanuel'

Offertory

Prayers of the people

SENDING OUT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Hymn of mission TiS 272 'Come thou long expected Jesus'

Litany of mission

Lord, give us courage to prepare for your coming.

When we are tempted to busyness,

slow our bodies and still our hearts.

When we are tempted to enrich ourselves with *things*,

give us a longing for the riches of your kingdom.

When we are tempted to blow our savings
on people who lack for nothing,

give us hearts to serve the poor and the destitute.

When we are tempted to celebrate Christmas too early,

show us the joy of prayer and of waiting.

Lord, give us courage,

give us courage to wait for you in faith.

Blessing and dismissal

Go from this place as people who believe in God's good future.

The blessing of God go with you—that of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional

This service was written by Garry Deverell. It may be used freely with acknowledgement. <http://www.deverell.net>.

The Introit is from the musical 'Godspell' by Stephen Schwartz.