

3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Introit

The congregation sings the following through three times as the bible is processed into the church:



Lighting of the Advent candles

Listen to the word of the Apostle John:

This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him . . . God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4.9, 16b

The 3rd Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings the first 3 verses of the following song:

Song TiS 286 'Light one candle'

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

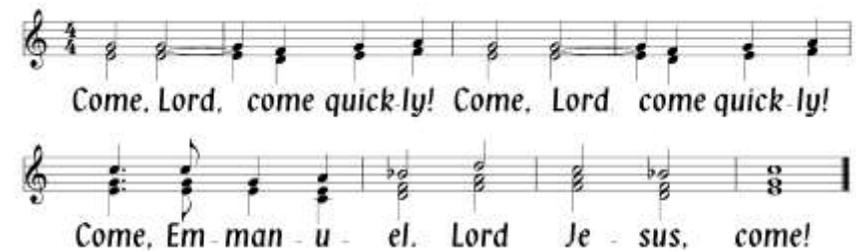
Greeting and welcome

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of invocation: "O Antiphons"

Sung response:



O blessed Wisdom,
coming towards us on the breath of God,
seeping into every crack and corner of the world
with strength and gentleness to order everything just right:
Come now and show us the way to health and wholeness.

Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O blessed Adonai
hope of God's people,
you made yourself known to Moses in a burning bush,
and let him in on life's best secrets:
Come now, take us into your confidence as well.

Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O blessed Root of Jesse,
budding from a dead branch as a sign of hope for everyone;
the leaders of the world will stand in amazement at you,

and all their people as well:
Come quickly to deliver us from the rottenness of our politics.
Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O blessed Key of David,
true Pastor of all God's people,
you open doors that no-one can close,
and close doors that no-one can open:
Come now to set the prisoners free,
all those who live in darkness and despair.
Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O Radiant Dawn,
glory and beauty of God's own face,
eternal Sun of justice and peace:
Come now to shine for everyone
who lives in the shadow of death.
Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O blessed Shepherd of all the world,
desire of every people and nation,
you are the heartbeat of our fragile humanity:
Come now to save us,
we whom you formed from the dust of the earth.
Come Lord, come quickly . . .

O blessed Emmanuel,
rightful ruler and giver of the secrets of life,
desire of every heart and saviour of the world:
Come now to make us your children,
for you are our God, the Lord of all.
Come Lord, come quickly . . .

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 vigilant to prepare for the holidays,
but lazy to prepare for your coming,
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we are vigilant with our buying but lazy 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.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Listen to the song of Mary, the mother of Jesus:
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. God has come to the help of his people; God has fulfilled the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family for ever and ever.

Luke 1.52-55

Christ therefore has this word of grace for everyone who repents of their desire to be rich while others are poor, to be well-fed while others go hungry: 'Your sins are forgiven'.
Thanks be to God!

The peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
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 61.1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

***Then our mouths were filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.***

Then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'

***The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced with abandon.***

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb desert.

***May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.***

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,

***shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.***

I Thessalonians 5.16-24

John 1.6-8, 19-28 – *as children's talk*

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

Song TiS 647 'Comfort, comfort all my people'

Homily

Affirmation of faith 'Your Kingdom Come' (UIW People's Book)

We believe in God,
creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ,
incarnate among us, who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

***Lord we believe.
Help us in our unbelief.***

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts
entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.***

We commit ourselves individually and as a community
to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross;
to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,

praying that God's kingdom may come.

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Offertory hymn TiS 269 'Hark the glad sound'

Offertory prayer

Prayers of the people

SENDING OUT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

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 grace.

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,

Christ, give us faith.

Hymn of mission TiS 473 'Community of Christ'

Blessing and dismissal

Go from this place a blessed people called to share the Spirit of Christ
with your friends and neighbours.

The blessing of God is with you always, 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>.

'Prepare ye the Way' is from the musical 'Godspell' by Stephen
Schwartz.