

4th Sunday of Advent Year B

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Introit

The following is sung 3 times while the bible is processed into the church.



Lighting of the Advent candles

Listen to the word of the prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and awe of the Lord.

Isaiah 11.1-2

The 4th Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings the following song:

Song TiS 286 'Light one candle'

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ's love.

**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 praise (adapted from *Uniting in Worship: People's Book*, p. 154)

Blessed are you, O Christ our God:

**you were before time began,
and came into the world to save us.**

Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness:

**you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.**

Blessed are you, Son of David:

**born to rule,
you received gifts from the nations.**

Blessed are you, Son of Man:

**baptised by John,
you saved us from ourselves.**

Blessed are you, heavenly Sovereign:

**teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the coming reign of God.**

With the voices of heaven and all creation

we celebrate the coming of our saviour:
let heaven and earth shout their praise!

With all earth's creatures we sing and dance at your coming:
***glory and praise are yours, Lord Jesus Christ,
now and for ever. Amen!***

Prayer of confession (action prayer)

God of David, you have promised to love us always
(hands to heart);
but sometime we hide away from your love
(arms up, hiding from heaven).

God of Mary, you have given us the privilege of being your servants
(arms wide in offering);
but sometimes we want to serve only ourselves
(turn away, arms crossed).

God of Jesus, you invite us to share in your everlasting reign of peace
(take the hand of those next to you);
but sometimes we lash out with unkind words and deeds
(fists clenched and hitting out)

God of love, forgive us
(crouch down head hung low).
Help us to stand up and remember your love
(stand up and face each other)
Help us to live what we believe
(hands out in offering).

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Listen to the word of the Lord to David:
I will not remove from you my steadfast love, or be false to my
faithfulness.

Ps. 89.33

Neither shall God be false with us. The faithful God of Jesus Christ has
promised to forgive us when we turn and confess our *lack* of faith.
Christ came from God, bearing this miraculous word of grace for us all:
'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

Hymn TiS 302 'The angel Gabriel'

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

Scripture 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16
 Luke 1.46b-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for God has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;

***the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is God's name.***

The Lord has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm
***and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
and lifting up those who are lowly.***

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

God has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
***to remember his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.***

Romans 16.25-27

Luke 1.26-38 – *as children's story*

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

Homily

Hymn TiS 161 'Tell out my soul'

Offertory/offertory prayer

Prayers of the people

SENDING OUT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Song of mission TiS 216 'Rejoice the Lord is king'

Prayer of mission

Loving Lord,
as Gabriel came to Mary and promised a miraculous new future
for all who, like her, lived in poverty and oppression;
send your angel once more, dear Lord,
for we need the hope of the Christ-child urgently.
For all the good things that were growing in the world
are being cut down.

In the sea of power and greed that surrounds us,
it is sometimes difficult to see how anything could grow at all.
So come now, Spirit of Life, send your angel:
cause a shoot to grow anew from the stump of our failures.
Let it flourish and grow into life,
that the world may believe in the Christ-child once more,
he who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Blessing and dismissal

The blessing of God be always 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>.

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