

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Presider: In this time and in this place
We gather on the ancestral lands of the Kwakwaka'wakw,
Nuu-chah-nulth and Coast Salish peoples.

**All: From many places and many peoples
we come to this house in prayer.**

Presider: In this time and in this space
We are not alone
For we meet in the presence of the living God.

All: We meet in the presence of the living God.

Presider: In this time and in this place
We are not alone
For the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Presider: In this time and in this space
We are not alone
For the wind of the Spirit
moves in and through us.

**All: The wind of the Spirit
moves in and through us.**

Presider: In this time and in this place
we gather with the whole company of heaven:
here heaven and earth are one.

**All: In this time and in this space
heaven and earth are one.**

Presider: In this time and in this space
as the nights lengthen
and the days are dim,

**All: we light this candle to
remind us that our Light comes.**

Presider: In this time and in this place
as we wait for Jesus, who is
Love for the world,

**All: we light this candle to
remind us that our Love comes.**

Presider: In this time and in this space,
we gather together,
one people in Jesus Christ.

**All: In this time and place,
we are one people in Jesus Christ.
In the name of God,
Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Collect for Advent 4 from the Trial Use Collects:

God of all hope and joy,
open our hearts in welcome,
so that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming
may find in us a dwelling prepared for him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 7.10-16.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Reader: Listen for the Leading of the Spirit

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18

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.
They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
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.

Reader: A reading from the Paul's letter to the Romans 1.1-7.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: "Listen for the Leading of the Spirit"

All: Thanks be to God

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Chris.

Homily

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Tirechan's Creed, 7th century (*from The Patrician Texts of the Book of Armagh AD 670*)
[the creed may be read by a single voice, all standing; or by the congregation, all standing]

Our God is the God of all humans,
the God of heaven and earth,
the God of seas and rivers,
the God of sun and moon,
the God of all heavenly bodies,

the God of the lofty mountains,
the God of the lowly valleys.
God is above all the heavens;
and beneath the heavens.
Heaven and earth and sea,
and everything in them,
such God has as an abode.
God inspires all things
gives life to all things,
stands above all things,
and stands beneath all things.
God enlightens the light of the sun,
strengthens the light of the night and the stars,
makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea,
and places the stars in the service of the greater lights.
And there is the Son who is co-eternal with God,
and similar in all respects
neither is the Son younger nor older;
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Reader: O God, who sent to us our Saviour, whose Body is your Church, grant to all your faithful people your unity and your peace. *Add specific intercessions for the Church, followed by:*

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, whose Kingdom holds heaven and earth as one, grant to our leaders and all in authority your wisdom and your peace. *Add specific intercessions for all in authority and for this and every nation, followed by:*

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who created this bountiful world, grant to all in danger or in want a full share in your abundance and your peace. *Add specific intercessions for those in danger or in need, followed by:*

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, whose Spirit comes among us to inspire and to restore, grant to all who suffer in mind, body or spirit your healing and your peace. *Insert specific intercessions for the sick, followed by:*

All: God of Love,
hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who created this lovely world, grant to your people the desire, the knowledge and the determination to be proper stewards of the earth, that all may share in your bounty and your peace. *Insert specific intercessions for the physical world, followed by:*

All: God of Love,
hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who brings us the living water and leads us to eternal life, grant to the dying and those who mourn your comfort and your peace. *Insert specific intercessions for those who have died, are dying or who mourn, followed by:*

All: God of Love,
hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution:

Presider: The grace-filled shadows of Advent offer us the opportunity to explore our human complexities through the lens of God's saving love. Trusting in God's promises let us confess our sins:

**All: Jesus, forgive us our sins.
Forgive the sins we can remember and the sins we have forgotten.
Forgive the wrongs we have done and the good we have failed to do.
Forgive the times when we have been weak in the face of temptation,
and those when we have been stubborn in the face of correction.
Forgive the times when we have been overly proud,
and those when we have failed to boast of your works.
Forgive the harsh judgements we have made,
and the undue leniency we have shown.
Forgive the lies we have told and the truths we have avoided.
Forgive us the pain we have caused,
and the over-indulgence we have practiced.
Jesus have mercy on us, and make us whole.**

Adapted from the Early Irish (from A Celtic Primer p. 95)

Presider: May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you close,
pardon and cleanse you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and show you the glory of the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

Presider: The God who holds heaven and earth as one sent to us the Prince of Peace:
peace in the Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes and
peace in our hearts.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord is here

People: God's Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: May God be with you

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to our God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you,
God of love, our source and our fulfillment,
for you create all things
and in you we live and move and have our being.
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

You made us in your image.
And even though we turn from you,
again and again you call us to yourself,
and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own
to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.

You sent Jesus among us,
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,
and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us -
Jesus suffered the cross,
Died,
And in rising again
became the firstborn of the renewed family.

Your Holy Spirit descended
and gave life to your church.

And so we gather around your table,
with all the saints
and with all Creation
We sing the hymn of your unending love:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**+Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: To you be glory, almighty God,
because on the night before he died,
Jesus took bread,
when he had given thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you:
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
Poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.
All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,
we ask you to accept
this, our sacrifice of praise.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son

Unite us in Christ
and give us your love
that we might be strengthened to do your work
as your body in the world.

Through Christ our Redeemer,
in the power of the Spirit,
all praise and glory be yours, Creator God,
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Presider: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: We break the bread of life,
And that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us light and life**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

The Communion

The Doxology

Presider: All your works praise you, O Lord.

All: And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Advent Blessing:

Presider: May the saving hope of the coming infant Christ
fill you with expectation,
the joy of Mary's song surround you
and give you courage,
the faith of the prophets
strengthen your resolve to work for the redemption of the world,
and the blessing of God, Source of all being,
eternal Word and Holy Spirit,
be with you this day and always.

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.