

## 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  
Hope for the world,

**All: we light this candle to  
remind us that our Hope 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 1:**

**Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life  
in which your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility,  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.**

## **THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah [chapter 2, verses 1-5]  
The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

Reader: Listen for the Leading of the Spirit  
**All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,  
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’  
Our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together.  
To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
For there the thrones for judgement were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
‘May they prosper who love you.  
Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers.’  
For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.

Reader: A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans [ chapter 13, verses 11-14]  
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to  
wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became  
believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the  
works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in  
the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and  
licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus  
Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: “Listen for the Leading of the Spirit”  
**All: Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel of Christ:*

Reader: The Lord be with you

**All: and also with you**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All:** Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Tirechan's Creed, 7<sup>th</sup> 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:*

God of Love,

**All: 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:*

God of Love,

**All: 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:*  
God of Love,

**All: 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 judgments 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

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	Presider:	May God be with you
<b>People:</b>	<b>God's Spirit is with us.</b>	<b>People:</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>
Presider:	Lift up your hearts.	Presider:	Lift up your hearts.
<b>People:</b>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>	<b>People:</b>	<b>We lift them to our God.</b>
Presider:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	Presider:	Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.
<b>People:</b>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>	<b>People:</b>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

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.**

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.

All: Great is the mystery of faith.  
**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 hope  
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.**

#### 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.**