

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
Joy for the world,

**All: we light this candle to
remind us that our Joy 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 3 from the Trial Use Collects:

God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.
Grant perseverance and patience
to all who long for your Son's return,
so that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. **Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35.1–10.
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Canticle 18

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Reader: A reading from the letter of James 5.7–10.
Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for

the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

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:

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:

**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.

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 joy
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.