

## 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  
Peace for the world,

**All: we light this candle to  
remind us that our Peace 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 2 from the Trial Use Collects:**

**God of justice,  
clear our lives of hatred and despair  
and sow in us seeds of joy and peace;  
so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us  
as we await the coming of the Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns, one God,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah [chapter 11.1–10]  
A shoot shall come out from the stock 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 the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the  
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: Listen for the Leading of the Spirit

**All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 72.1–7, 18–19

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
Give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 15.4–13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so  
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might  
have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to  
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that  
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the  
circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the  
promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify  
God for his mercy. As it is written,  
'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name’;  
and again he says,  
‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;  
and again,  
‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;  
and again Isaiah says,  
‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’  
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you  
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3.1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Reader: The Gospel of Christ  
**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Chris.**

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 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.**

Or

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.**

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 peace  
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.**