

## **Worship Program—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 3, 2023**

### **Welcome**

#### **Opening Song Waiting in Silence #51 Carey Landry**

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope; we are your people, we long for you, Lord.  
God ever with us, Emmanuel, Come, Lord Jesus, Maranatha!

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope; we are your people, we trust in your love.  
O Sun of Justice, true Prince of Peace, Come with your justice, Lord, Maranatha!

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath—All extend hands in prayer**

**All: As we bless and light this Advent Wreath, we bring to mind all the people and places in the world that are in need of light this day. May our prayers encircle the world and offer light in places of darkness. May we work as one body to bring justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted. Enkindle hope in our darkened world and announce the dawn of your kingdom once again. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Reader:** O Season of Waiting,  
Come! Light a candle in our hearts each morning.  
Reveal to us the beauty of waiting in the darkness.  
Keep vigil with us in this nurturing season.

### **Lighting of 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle**

### **Sign of the Cross and Greeting**

### **Invitation to Prayer and Quiet Moment**

#### **Opening Prayer—prayed by all**

**Holy One, draw us into the stillness essential for an alive and open awareness of your presence. Awaken our heart. Quiet our mind. And wrap a mantle of mindfulness around every part of our days. As we travel through this Advent Season, may you bless us with joy and a deep abiding peace. Amen.**

*Joyce Rupp, Prayer Seeds, p. 15 (adapted CCJ)*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 63: 16b-17; 64: 1, 3-5, 8 (Shorter form) (Inclusive Bible)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

You, God, are our mother and father; “Our Redeemer Forever” is your name.  
O God, why do you let us wander from your ways and let our hearts grow too hard to revere you? Return to us for the sake of your children, the tribes of your heritage!

O, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would shake before you!

When you did awesome things that we could not have expected, you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!

From ages past no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen any God but you intervening for those who wait for you!

Oh, that you would find us doing right, that we would be mindful of you in our ways!

You are our mother and father, O God; we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands.

The word of God.

**Response—An Advent Prayer from the Iona Community (adapted CCJ)**

Holy One, you keep us waiting.

You, the God of all time, want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

**All Thank you, Holy One, for the waiting time.**

You keep us looking.

You, the God of all space, want us to look in all places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, and for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

**All Thank you, Holy One, for the looking time.**

You keep us loving.

You, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you—to love the loveless and the unlovely, to love without jealousy or design or threat, and to love ourselves even when it is difficult.

**All Thank you, Holy One, for the loving time.**

In all this, you keep us.

Through hard questions with no easy answers, through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt we were useless, through the patience and the dreams and the love of others, you keep us.

**All Thank you, Holy One, for the keeping time.**

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- **A Silent Moment** -

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia—Give the Glory

**Gospel** Mark 13: 33-37

**Homily**

**Homily Response**—You are invited to offer your thoughts on the readings or on the homily itself. This is a time of sharing. Discussions are done at another time. We ask that you remember the ABCs of sharing: please be audible, brief, and Christ-centered.

**Offering of Prayer for those in need...** Response: **Loving God, hear our prayer**

**Preparation of the Gifts** Response: **Blessed be God forever.**

We now place all our joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams on this Advent table of love, as we pray

**All: Holy One, accept these gifts from our hands, for the praise and glory of your name, for our good and the good of all your people.**

Our God be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to our God.**  
Let us give thanks to our loving God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer—Advent**

Presider: God, you brought forth all creation from your Life-Giving Womb.  
O Love of the Ages, who was born from Mary's womb, we praise you and leap for joy in your presence.

**All: O Holy One of ancient Israel, you revealed yourself in Mary's womb, in a shining star, in humble shepherds, in a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. You embrace us with infinite love in every situation and relationship. You dwell in the depths of our hearts.**

**We invite you this day to set us free and transform us as we gather around the table of your love.**

Bridget Mary Meehan

#### **—All extend hands**

Presider: Nourishing God, pour out your Spirit, ever present, upon this Table of Joy and all who gather around it. As you transform these simple gifts of bread and wine into grace beyond all imagining, may we too be continually changed into people of deeper Love. Thom Shuman, textweek.com—adapted CCJ

We remember how, on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and shared it with all those present saying:

**Take this all of you and eat.**  
**This is my body which is given up for you.**  
**When you break bread together, remember me.**

At the end of the meal Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed you, God, and shared the cup with all those present saying:

**Take this all of you and drink.**  
**This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you.**  
**When you drink from this cup, remember me.**

**All: As we continue this memory of Jesus, we remember in prayer all who journey with us, especially our family, friends, and neighborhood communities. We pray for people of every faith and for peace in the hearts of all people.**

**We also remember those who have gone before us, especially our loved ones, and all those on whose shoulders we stand.**

Presider: Open us to the inbreaking of your healing love in every area of our lives creating within us new life. May your Spirit birth a new world of peace and justice.

**All: May our Advent waiting birth in us an expectant hope.**

**May our waiting birth a new discovery of your presence within and among us.**

**May our waiting birth a deep, abiding joy for all life.**

Bridget Mary Meehan (adapted CCI)

Presider: Together we pray

**All: In the Spirit of Love may all creation unfold, may all creation be one, and may all divisions be healed as we sing**

*Amen—Sung*

**The Prayer of Jesus—Our Father, Holy Mother** by Jan Phillips from *There Are Burning Bushes Everywhere* (p. 36)—adapted CCI

Our Father, Holy Mother, Creator of the Cosmos, Source of Life,  
 You are in my mind, in my garden, in my cup of wine and loaf of bread.  
 Blessed be your names: Mother, Allah, Beloved, Great Spirit, Radiant One,  
 HaShem, Sophia.  
 Your presence has come, your will is done on earth as it is in the cosmos.

May we give each other strength, mercy, tenderness, and joy and forgive each other's failures,  
 silence, pettiness, and forgetfulness as we ask to be forgiven by those we've hurt.

Lead us home to ourselves and each other, to clarity, to oneness  
 and deliver us from the darkness of ignorance and fear.  
 So we pray and so we receive. Amen.

**Sign of Peace**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Jesus, you make us worthy to receive you, and by your word we are healed.**

**All are welcome to communion.**

**Communion Song**     *Here I Am #437* by Tom Booth

**Refrain** Here I am, standing right beside you. Here I am; do not be afraid. Here I am, waiting like a lover. I am here; here I am.

Do not fear when the tempter calls you. Do not fear even though you fall. Do not fear, I have conquered evil. Do not fear, never be afraid. **Refrain**

I am here in the face of ev'ry child. I am here in ev'ry warm embrace. I am here with tenderness and mercy. Here I am, I am here. **Refrain**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Announcements**

**Blessing—Prayed together**

**May we be blessed with the Star of Courage. May it grow bright in whatever requires our inner strength.**

**May we be blessed with the Star of Wonder. May it draw us to appreciate the beauty in and around us.**

**And may we be blessed with the Star of Delight. May it lift our spirit and help us to see joy in simple things.**

*Rupp, Out of the Ordinary, pp. 13-14 (adapted CCI)*

**Sending Forth**     *Companions on the Journey #590* Carey Landry

**We are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God, we believe in the love of our God.**

No longer strangers to each other; no longer strangers in God's house; we are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care, by the strength of those who care. **Refrain**

We have been gifted with each other, and we are called by the Word of our God: to act with justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God, to walk humbly with our God.

**Refrain**