

Nov 28, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

It doesn't matter whether or not you can have faith;
whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less:
what matters to God is simply that you are here.

We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas.
Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and
our lives that we need to prepare for it.

We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born.

Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world.
Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

The Peace of Christ be with you.... And also with you.

SCRIPTURE *Psalm 25:1-10; Jeremiah 33: 14-16*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent. (*lights the first candle*)

Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break
through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He
called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the
potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

Reader 2: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you.
We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your
justice, love, and peace.

Reader 1: Shine on us, O God of justice; guide our path through gloom of night;

Reader 2: Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.

HYMN PH 110 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: 9th century Latin text; Music: 9th century plainsong melody

1) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2) O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. REFRAIN

3) O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. REFRAIN

4) O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. REFRAIN

SERMON *Luke 21:25-36*

REFLECTIVE SILENCE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

***We pray for health and strength for** George Drake, Betty Anne Francis, Gene McCaw, Verlene Mitchell, Emily Pfitsch, and Gayle Strickler.*

***We pray for comfort and peace for** Gayle Strickler, family and friends. Lois died September 29th.
A memorial service for Lois will take place here at Grinnell UCC, **Saturday, December 4, 10:30am.***

PASTORAL PRAYER

silently and gently
falling and failing
changing and resting
seeking you, Lord...

we watch
we wait
we dream
we pray...

for the earth to renew
for our hearts to soften

for your grace to cover us
for your justice to pour out
for time and space to listen
for courage to act

on the edge of Advent,
we sit with you...
we pause...
we hurt...
we repent...
we rage...

*When will it be?
Will it ever be?
Come quickly, Lord Jesus.
Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER *(Inclusive Version)*

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother
Holy is your name.
May your love be enacted in the world.
May your will be done
On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

GRATITUDE FOR OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

HYMN NCH 118 *Of the Parent's Heart Begotten*

1) Of the Parent's heart begotten when the worlds were yet to be,
One there was with no beginning, One who is eternally--
Source and Ending of all things that have been,
and all things that are to be, forever and forever.

2) By this Word was all created, by this Word were all things done:
Land and air and deepest ocean, harmony of three in one,
And all growing in the luminance shed forth from the moon and sun,
forever and forever.

3) Blessed dawning of salvation as the Word is breathed in grace
Into earthly flesh receiving--God incarnate taking place;
Now the light of God revealed through the Child of human face,
forever and forever.

4) Now behold the One whom prophets have foretold for ages long
On the faithful page of scripture, seers and sages in their song;
Now the Promised One shines forth!
Let all earth its praise prolong forever and forever.

5) Depths and heights break forth in singing, angels, saints make melody,
All dominions, every power sing, make new psalms of ecstasy,
Let no heart refrain from praising God, celebrate in harmony,
forever and forever.

BENEDICTION

Go now and let the Lord steer you in the way of truth.
Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up
in the trivialities and anxieties of the world.
Be alert at all times and pray for strength
to escape the traps that would keep you from God.

And may God make you increase in love for one another;
May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness,
as you ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Arise, Saints of the Kingdom*, Johann von Rist (1607-1667)

ATTENTION: For everyone's safety, please exit the building quietly and in a timely manner and reserve socializing for outside the church building.

Liturgists: Dorothy and John Noer

Musicians: Liz Rodrigues, Oboe; Handbell Ensemble: Jo Entwisle, Russ Leggett, Mary Smith

Organist: Kenneth Davis

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm

Worship Resources:

Invocation ~ written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Rev. Deborah Vaughn, a hospice chaplain endorsed by the Alliance of Baptists, and Assistant Minister at Twinbrook Baptist Church in Rockville, MD. She blogs at An Unfinished Symphony. This prayer was posted on RevGalBlogPals. <https://revgalblogpals.org/2017/12/01/friday-prayer-on-the-edge-of-advent/>

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