

Worship in Song

In the darkness we were waiting

Countdown Video & Welcome

Words of Introduction

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to preach
good news to the poor. He has sent me to
bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim
freedom for the captives and release from
darkness for the prisoners ... *Isaiah 61.1*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Worship in Song

Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes
The Saviour promised long
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held
The gates of brass before him burst
The iron fetters yield.

He comes to free the captive mind
Where evil thoughts control
And for the darkness of the blind
Gives light that makes them whole.

He comes the broken heart to bind
The bleeding soul to cure
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

Confession

**Gracious Lord, forgive our lack of trust in you
and faith in your power. We want what we
do not have, but fail to notice the daily
blessings you give us. Clear our blindness to**

**the needs of others. Forgive us for the lame
excuses for not serving you and help us to
serve the needs of others with loving and
generous hearts. Forgive us and make us
ready to be truly your disciples. In Jesus'
name, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the
world to save sinners, bring you his pardon
and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent
John the Baptist to prepare the way of your
Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to
hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause
of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Advent Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness and to 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 the living and the dead, we may rise to
the life immortal; through him who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Matthew 11.2-11 (*Church Bible page 816*)

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Worship

By faith, we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of his promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith, the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth.

By faith, this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon his name.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us acclaim the Lord our God:
**We believe in God the eternal Father;
heaven and earth are full of his glory. We
believe in Jesus Christ, his true and only Son;
he became man to set us free from sin. We
believe in the Holy Spirit; he is our advocate
and guide. We believe in one God; Father,
Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Interview

The Peace

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the
Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

**Everything in heaven and earth comes from you,
Lord. We give you only what is yours. May you
be praised forever and ever. Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through
your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living
Word, through whom you have created all
things; who was sent by you in your great
goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as
your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on
earth and went about among us; he opened
wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end
to death by dying for us; and revealed the
resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled
your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and
with all the company of heaven, we proclaim
your great and glorious name, for ever
praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all
holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy
Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts
of bread and wine may be to us the body and
blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same
night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave
you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his
disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which
is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Worship in Song

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Saviour of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest
Where Christ the ruler is confessed.
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Come, Saviour, come with us abide;
Our hearts to thee we open wide;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.

Worship in Song

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died

And the morning that you rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By his blood and in His Name
In his freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Worship in Song

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry;
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me;
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them - they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them - my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these
heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your
Spirit that when your Christ comes again we
may shine as lights before his face; who is
alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

God's saints of old through history told
Of the One who was to come
A son a king a Lamb to be slain
For the sins of all the world

He's the Promise of the Ages
Lifted up to save us
Jesus Christ our sacrifice
He's the fount of living water
King and friend forever
Bow before the Promise of the Ages

In flesh He came yet chose to remain
With the outcast and the poor
He bled He died was raised glorified
Now He lives forever more

Bridge

Lift your hands and sing hallelujah
to the King of all the earth
Raise your voice and sing hallelujah
to the King of all the earth

Notices

Blessing

Christ, the Son of Righteousness, shine upon
you, scatter the darkness from before your
path, and make you ready to meet him when
he comes in glory; and the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you
always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music as we leave

In the darkness we were waiting