



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

TASK FORCE FOR THE
RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP

CONTRIBUTORS

REV. JASON D. ASHBY
REV. DR. ELAINE BOONE
REV. SUSAN CLIMO
DEACON SHERRY COMAN
REV. KATHERINE GOHM
TREVOR HICKS
REV. KAREN WARE JACKSON
DEBBIE LOU LUDOLPH
REV. DR. KIMBERLYNN MCNABB
TIM MCNABB
REV. BRAD MITTLEHOLTZ
REV. SUE NEVILE
REV. RICK PRYCE
REV. TANYA RAMER
REV. DARLYNE RATH
REV. DOUGLAS REBLE
REV. SCOTT SCHELLENBERGER
REV. ROB WIESNER
ST. PETER'S TV MINISTRY

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

REV. JASON D. ASHBY
REV. SUSAN CLIMO
REV. HILLA LAHTINEN
LAURIE KNOTT
REV. DR. MICHAEL PRYSE, BISHOP
REV. ADAM SNOOK, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

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A PANDEMIC PRAYER FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS (REV. SUSAN CLIMO)

Eternal God,
this time of pandemic has stretched on so long, and has been so filled with waiting: waiting for testing, and then test results; waiting for loved ones with COVID to recover – or be released from their struggles; waiting in long lines everywhere; waiting to learn if we'll ever go back to our workplaces (or even have a job); waiting for a vaccine; waiting to hug our family and friends; waiting for life to go back to something more familiar, more full.

We are tired of waiting.

But you are lovingly leading us into the season of Advent, a season filled with an entirely different, life-giving kind of waiting: an expectant, audacious, hope-filled waiting that looks forward to the coming of the one who brings love, joy, justice, peace and the promise of life with God forever.

As we turn our hearts and minds to waiting for Jesus, fill us with confidence in all your Advent promises. Remind us that, even if this year we will not experience all the traditional worship and events that we love, with the guiding of your Spirit we will find new and meaningful ways to mark Christ's coming, and to pray together

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'.

In His name we pray.

Amen

Advent Wreath Liturgy I

Rev. Dr. Elaine Boone

Advent 1 – Hope

Today we light the candle of hope.
This year we have prayed for hope.
This year we have prayed in hope:
That wildfires would cease.
That racial injustice would stop.
That COVID-19 would go away.
Today we pray with hope!
We know God is with us in moments of hope and hopelessness.
We know God is with us.

Advent 2 – Peace

Today we light the candle of peace.
This year we have prayed for peace.
This year we have prayed in peace:
That people will find common ground.
That nations will stop harming their citizens.
That the doomsday clock will go backward, not forward.
Today we pray with peace!
We know God is with us in moments of peace and unrest.
We know God is with us.

Advent 3 – Joy

Today we light the candle of joy.
This year we have prayed for joy.
This year we have prayed in joy:
That water became cleaner and the air fresher.
That new life has begun.
That in dark we re-discovered what is important.
Today we pray with joy.
We know God is with us in moments of joy and sadness.
We know God is with us.

Advent 4 – Love

Today we light the candle of love.
This year we have prayed for love.
This year we have prayed in love:
That we will love ALL our neighbours as ourselves.
That no one will be hungry or homeless.
That Thursdays in Black will end violence against women and children
and bring justice for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.
Today we pray with love.
We know God is with us in moments of love and hate.
We know God is with us.

Christmas – Faith

Today we light the candle of faith.

This year we have prayed for faith.

This year we have prayed in faith:

That we are not alone.

That our needs will be met.

That we will experience the love of God.

Today we pray with faith.

We know that God is with us in moments of faith and questioning.

We know that God is with us.

Advent Wreath Liturgy II

Rev. Scott Schellenberger

Advent 1

Gracious God, we honour your name. We gather to begin the journey to the manger. As we gather in darkness, we light the first candle on this wreath of anticipation. Help us to slow down. Let us take notice. Give us peace and grace as we prepare to welcome him with joy. Amen.

Light 1 candle

Sing verse 1 of Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715)

Advent 2

Gracious God, we honour your name. We gather to continue our journey to the manger. As we walk in darkness help us to see the great light that guides our way. We light the second candle preparing our hearts for the warmth of your Son. Amen.

Light 2 candles

Sing verses 1-2 of Christ Be our Light (ELW 715)

Advent 3

Gracious God we honour your name. Be with us on our journey to the manger. Help us help those who are hungry for food and thirsty for water. Help us to be the bread unto which they turn. The bread that when broken to feed many helps many. We light the third candle today preparing our heart for the glorious love of your Son. Amen.

Light 3 candles

Sing verses 1-3 of Christ be our Light (ELW 715)

Advent 4

Gracious God we honour your name. Our journey to the manger continues. There are many without shelter or a home as the winter temperatures will soon come upon us. Help us to prepare warm spots of hope for individuals that they not only experience the warmth of Christ but the safety of a warm home. Preparing our hearts for the warmth of others we worship you. Amen.

Light 4 candles

Sing verses 1-4 of Christ be our Light (ELW 715)

Christmas

Christ you are our light. We give you thanks God for the many gifts you give to us. Most importantly the gift of your Son who carried by the virgin Mary was born for all our sakes. Bless the Christ child. Inspire us by your love and help the light of Christ shine brightly through us. Amen.

Light 5 candles

Sing verses 1-5 of Christ be our Light (ELW 715)

Advent Wreath Liturgy III A Candle is Burning

Rev. Sue Nevile

*Dean, Sandra 1986
Tune: Away in A Manger*

Verse 1

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A Candle of HOPE in November's dark night
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

Verse 2

*A candle is burning a candle of PEACE
A candle to signal that conflict must cease
For Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

Verse 3

*A candle is burning, a candle of JOY
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow*

Verse 4

*A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

Verse 5

*We honour Messiah with Christ's candle flame
Our Christmas Eve Candles glad tidings proclaim
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night
As God comes among us, the Christians true light.*

ADVENT PILGRIMAGE IN PALESTINE

During the Advent Season, ELCA Young Adults and ELCA Peace Not Walls will be offering a virtual [Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine](#).

Over the course of the four weeks of Advent, young adults from the ELCA and ELCJHL will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education and theological reflection.

Every Monday of Advent will feature a video reflection, and every Wednesday of Advent will feature a written blog post accompanied by discussion questions and action items for use with small groups.

Pre-Registration is required.



Advent 1 - Hope

- P1 It's time to start lighting the Advent Candles!
- P2 Why do we do that?! Is it a countdown to Christmas? My advent calendar gives me chocolate every day.
- P1 Well no, it's not a count down. It is a time to get ready to welcome the Christ child.
- P2 Oh I know! I'm so far behind in my Christmas preparations. I started shopping in July! Now I need to get all my baking done and put my lights up. I still don't understand the candles!
- P1 Advent is a time to get ready on the inside. It is a time to get centered in prayer and to devote to our spiritual lives. Have you noticed that it is getting darker and darker every day?
- P2 Yes! It's dark when I get up and dark when I eat dinner!
- P1 We also light the candles on the advent wreath to remind us to bring more light into a dark world.
- P2 Wow. That's deep.
- P1 The candle we light today is the candle of HOPE. Hope helps us when things are difficult.
- P2 And this year has really been difficult!
- P1 Yes it has. As Long as we have God – we have hope!
- P3 Let us pray: God of all hopefulness, in you we trust. Help us to become beacons of hope in our church and in our communities. As we push the darkness away, guide us to follow the star to Bethlehem and behold the greatest hope of humankind. In Christ's name we pray. AMEN

Sing v. 1 of A Candle is Burning as you light the first candle

Advent 2 - Peace

- P1 Peace on earth!
- P2 Peace be with you!
- P1 Peace is it's own reward!
- P2 Blessed are the peacemakers!
- P1 Today we light the candle of peace
- P2 As we gather today, let us remember the places in the world that are not experiencing peace and give thanks for the peace with which we are blessed.
- P1 Advent is a time of preparation. Peace is perhaps the most difficult thing to prepare in our lives. As we get ready for Christmas and the coming of the Christ child there are bright lights, decorations, shopping sprees, line ups, weather changes, family gatherings, parties and the many, many songs played over and over on the radio. It can be tempting to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations.
- P2 And those things can be exciting... and exhausting.
- P1 Let us be the voice that cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!
- P2 Help us prepare by looking for and living peaceful lives.

P3 Let us pray: Merciful God, look upon your people with kindness and favour. Guide us on our journey towards the night of Jesus' birth. Help us to prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts and in our lives. With peace guiding our days and hope lifting up our hearts we worship you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Sing v. 1-2 of A Candle is Burning as you light two candles

Advent 3 - Joy

P1 It's time to light the 3rd Advent candle.

P2 This one looks a little different.

P1 That's because it is the candle of JOY!

P2 What makes it special?

P1 This is the Sunday we call Laudate. It is when we remember the baby in Elizabeth – John the Baptist - moved with Joy upon his mother being greeted by Mary.

P2 "Rejoice in the Lord always!" John the Baptist is in a lot of these Advent stories

P1 It's true! John the Baptist reminds us that Jesus is the true light. The light of the world!

P2 What a great reminder of the joy that we experience with Jesus' birth. And it is also a joy that we are halfway through Advent to Christmas!

P1 For some people that might not be as joyful as it is for others. Instead of fretting about all we still haven't done to prepare for Christmas we should think of all the good things that God, and life, has given us.

P3 Let us pray: Holy and joyful God we are surrounded by the gifts of laughter and high spirits. For this we are thankful. Help us to be spreaders of joy in the world. And when it is difficult to join in and see joy in every day, help us to remember that even when life is not good God always is. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Sing v. 1-3 of A Candle is Burning as you light three candles

Advent 4 - Love

P1 Do you know what time it is?

P2 Finally time to light the last advent candle!

P1 that's right! This week is the last Sunday of advent! That means we are lighting the candle of LOVE.

P2 I hope we don't have to kiss!

P1 Certainly not. When we talk about the candle of love we are remembering God's love for us. God loved us so much that God gave us the greatest gift of all time: Jesus!

P2 Jesus *is* an amazing gift because "the gift" keeps giving. Jesus gives mercy, forgiveness and grace... all because of love!

P1 And this love isn't just for you and me. It is for everyone and for all time. This is the promise of Jesus' death and resurrection.

P2 That's a pretty awesome gift.

P1 When we light the candle of love we are lighting up love in our hearts and in our lives so that we can not just experience God's love, but share it with others.

P2 People need lots of love

P1 Because of Jesus we have lots to give!

P3 Let us pray: Uplifting God we ask you to continue loving us even when we do things that don't seem very loving. Wrap your arms around us in a loving embrace so that when we need your love the most we can feel you holding us in a holy hug. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen

Sing v. 1-4 of A Candle is Burning as you light four candles

Christmas – Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

P1 It is Christmas Eve and we have been preparing and living in expectation of this day all month long.

P2 Each week as we have lit a candle it has become brighter and brighter. I don't think I realised how much light could come from one candle!

P1 It was really neat to think about what each of the candles represents: HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE

P2 And to learn why each one is special. I really feel like I've been preparing my mind and my heart for tonight.

P1 We still have one more candle to light: The Christ Candle. Can you guess what this candle represents?

P2 I'm going to guess... JESUS!

P1 Yes this candle reminds us of Christ's resurrection, sinless purity and His life and teachings.

P2 What candle do we light next week?

P1 Now that advent is over we don't light advent candles any more.

P2 We don't?

P1 The season of Christmas lasts for 12 days. But the blessings of Christmas last all year long. You see Christmas never really stops and it never really starts. It lives all year inside our heart and it's up to us to share Christ's light in all the world.

P2 Wow Christmas is really amazing!

P1 Yes it is.

P3 Let us pray: Light of the world you came and blessed our darkness with your eternal brightness. Help us to reflect this brightness into the world so that others may come to know you through your reflections in us. On this night of blessings we pray that those who are lonely may be comforted with your presence, those who are sick may be healed by your touch, those who are despairing may be filled with your joy, and that those who have yet to meet you may be open to hearing your word. Remind us of your Hope, Peace, Joy and Love the whole year through. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Advent Wreath Liturgy IV

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

Advent 1 - Hope

Light one candle for hope.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but hope just won't let go.
Hope holds space for all our longings
lingers on the edge of harsh reality
like the dawn gently awakening the sky.
"Keep awake," she whispers,
"for the world is being made new."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

Advent 2 - Peace

Light one candle for peace.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but we refuse to be frozen by fear.
Peace comes in fits and starts
a deep breath a courageous truth a humble heart.
"Prepare the way," she whispers,
"for the Lord comes to make the broken whole."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

Advent 3 - Joy

Light one candle for joy.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but our joy cannot be contained.
Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe,
Joy pierces our silence with song
interrupts our sighing with laughter
unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.
"My soul magnifies the Lord," she whispers,
"and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

Advent 4 - Love

Light one candle for love.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but love never ends.
Love faithfully goes about the work of
casting out fear speaking truth healing the deepest wounds crossing the divide
from this world to the next and back again.
"Here i am," she whispers,
"the servant of the Lord."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Christmas

Light one candle for Christ.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long
but Christ is with us through it all.

In humble manger in a back water town - a baby.

On a convict's cross - a king.

In every heart and every home where hope, peace, joy, and love endure
Christ with us.

"Glory to God in the Highest heaven," she whispers,

"and peace to all on earth."

So we light one candle, because it only takes one:

Christ with us.

Karen Ware Jackson, 2020. Permission is granted for home and congregational use

Prayer of the Day I

Rev. Douglas Reble

Eternal God,

who comes to us again and again through the marvels of nature, in the person of Jesus, through the voice of conscience, and through your Spirit that dwells within us. Make us receptive during these days of Advent to your still, small voice that calls us from childishness to childlikeness, from fear to faith, from greed to generosity, and from a life that is self-centered to one that is centered in you, the Ground of our Being. For we want our lives to reflect the spirit of the one whose birth will soon be celebrated.. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayer of the Day II

Deacon Sherry Coman

Gracious God,

Creation awaits the coming of your son in wonder. Abide with us in our anticipation and longing. And help us to embrace your mystery. Teach us to open our hearts to you in preparation for new life. Help us to look for you, like the long streaks of light across an early dawn sea. And guide us always toward the knowledge and love of you.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen



ST. PETER'S TV MINISTRY

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kitchener ON has graciously agreed to share pre-recorded selections from their TV Ministry for use across the Eastern Synod. These videos can be incorporated into your mediated or in-person worship service.

Appropriate credit and permissions will be acknowledged in the videos which can be downloaded directly through our BOX Resource Library as they become available.

Confession & Forgiveness I

Rev. Dr. Kimberlynn McNabb

Blessed be the relational Trinity, ✝ One God,
Creating, reconciling, liberating.
Amen.

With hearts anticipating God's incarnation, we make preparation by confessing our sin:

A moment for silent reflection

Relational God,
Forgive us.

We have shied away from the strong themes of Advent.

We have emphasized the dualism of dark and light;
wrongfully equating darkness with sin, suffering, and evil.

We have failed to 'cry out' for the refugee, the enslaved, and the captive.

We hesitate to risk our comfort and security for the liberation and freedom of all.

We confess that we tame Jesus and his revolutionary view of God's reign.

We have interpreted Advent as a time of waiting, rather than,
a rallying call to work in a Spirit of justice

– to advocate for the poor and bring an end to systemic oppression.

Revolutionize our hearts for relationship

and our wills for the birthing of the commonwealth of God.

In the expectation of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Amen.

We are given the gift of relationship:

The midnight sky holds the twinkling stars.

The ocean depths support a myriad of luminescent creatures.

The shadows cradle hopes and dreams.

There was evening and there was morning – the first day. God saw that it was good.

In the evening, be at peace, find rest, and prayerful sleep.

In the morning, rise renewed in heart and will – forgiven, liberated, and freed.

In the name of Emmanuel – ✝ God-with-us – your sins are forgiven.

Turning from sin, being captive no more,

showered with hope, peace, joy, and love,

be revolutionized to fight for right relationship with all.

Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness II

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Rev. Brad Mittleholtz

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✙ one God,
who makes our paths straight,
who comes to be with us forever.
Amen

God of eternal hope, who brings healing to our broken lives and world: Hear our cries of pain, brokenness and destruction. We call out to you with an open heart, knowing you already know us wholly and yet we need to hear again words of hope, healing and reconciliation. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

O Comfort of all people,
we confess that we have forgotten again and again that you call us to full and loving lives.
We create barriers for loving and kind relationships,
we raise up mountains of hate, distrust and envy between ourselves and our neighbours,
we have forgotten the gospel message of the Word born among us,
we live lives that are not enflamed with the illumination of this season.
Come down again, enliven us, and call us again to new lives in relationship with all of your creation which calls out for your coming again among us.
Amen

May the God who makes every highway straight; who lifts up the valleys and lowers the mountains, raise you and enfold you with grace and peace. Know that the God who comes down to be with us, comes to be with you gifting you with God's grace. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God comfort you with forgiveness, Holy Spirit awaken you to new life that your life may reflect the coming of Christ into this world.
Amen



LEAD US TOWARDS CHRIST

"Lead Us Towards Christ" is the first selection in the *Story of Salvation: Incarnation* series by Trevor Hicks. Particularly suited as an accompaniment to Advent Candle Lighting liturgies, this musical resource is available as a score, or in pre-recorded video format through our BOX Resource Library. OneLicense users are asked to please report your usage. Otherwise, Trevor Hicks Compositions grants permission for the use of this music in worship.

Thanksgiving for Baptism I

Rev. Rick Pryce

In this season of Advent,
this time of transition and beginning,
of expectation and deep, deep longing,
we turn to the holy Trinity ✚,
source of life and hope, in whose name we gather. **Amen**

The congregation is addressed.

Through the water of creation and cleansing,
through the Word of promise and welcome,
we are immersed in the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.
Let us offer our praise and thanksgiving for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as this prayer is offered.

Gracious and loving One, Creator of all,
we give thanks for the water which surrounds us,
flows within us,
falls from the sky to nourish the earth,
gathers in pools and lakes, streams and rivers,
to support life and provide cleansing.
Hear us as we pray,
Come to us, Creator of life.

Gracious and loving One, Word of life,
we give thanks for Jesus,
who washed dirty feet and blinded eyes,
who washes away disgrace and division,
who welcomes us in the flowing promise,
and the hope of a new creation.
Hear us as we pray,
Come among us, Emmanuel.

Gracious and loving One, Spirit of reconciliation,
we give thanks for your promised presence,
the assurance of companionship on our journey,
the calling to work for justice and peace,
and the quiet anticipation of the coming reign of God. Hear us as we pray,
Come and fill us, Holy Spirit.

Gracious and loving One, one God,
we wait hopefully,
we wait expectantly,
we wait joyfully for your promised dawning,
begun, continued and completed in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession I

Rev. Darlyne Rath

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let us pray for the world, the Church, and all those in need.

Open eyes and hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

Advent God,

we journey with you, to the stable Bethlehem's to see the newborn King – we listen for the songs of angels and watch for the star of Bethlehem. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts focused on the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. **Amen**

This Advent-time,

we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, for their courage and their obedience. They stepped out into the unknown trusting in your plan to bring the prodigal son home to your people. We pray that their example of courage and obedience might be the pattern of our lives, and that when this happens in our small corner of the world, that we are ready to listen and then to act. **Amen**

In this season of expectation,

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into the business of our lives and those always hard to find moments of silence. We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into our homes and situations along with friends and families. We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives.

You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us and you nailed that vulnerability to the cross.

We cannot understand the reasoning – rather we marvel at the Salvation that comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and then it reaches out into the world. **AMEN**

Prayers of Intercession II

Rev. Jason D. Ashby

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await the One who is to come. Let us pray together in expectation: for creation, for our communities, and for all those in need.

Creator of all life, who illumines every time of darkness. We give you thanks that you have deemed the chaos of our lives to be good soil for your Holy Word. Help us to hear your sacred stories of regeneration, as promises of new life for this generation. Lord in Your Mercy...**Hear our Prayer.**

'Let My Prayers Rise Up' may be used as an optional chant by presider of cantor between each petition.

Sacred Breath of all life, who chooses to dwell near us and among us. We give you thanks for our communities of worship, our schools, and our places of healing. We thank you for our city streets where your cold wind now blows. And we give you thanks for our wilderness places, where your voice can still be heard. We ask O' Sacred Breath that you restore peace in our world, and hope in our future. Guide and encourage each of us, that we too may have the courage to heal the sick, to feed the hungry, to remember the forgotten, and to love one another as you first loved us. Lord in Your Mercy...**Hear our Prayer.**

Sustained of all life, who governs and guides for the sake of your own righteousness. We give you thanks for the leaders of our province and our nation. We pray that you grant them the wisdom to discern a good path forward, and the courage to lead us upon it. Lord in Your Mercy...**Hear our Prayer.**

Redeemer of all life, who comes to us in the humble birth of a newborn child. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, for those among us today, and for those who will surely come after us. We pray for our children, our elders, and those we now name aloud and in the silken of our hearts *Silence* Lord in Your Mercy...**Hear our Prayer.**

Holy and Loving God, who promises to hear the prayers of your people. We now place our hopes and our very being into the hands of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen



ADVENT HYMNS FROM ELW

Tim McNabb, Music Director at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Halifax, NS has undertaken the pandemic project of recording all the hymns in the ELW. Tim's creative re-imaginings of beloved Advent hymns are offered for use by congregations across the Eastern Synod.

Videos for inclusion in mediated or in-person worship can be downloaded directly through our BOX resource library.

Eucharistic Prayer I

Rev. Tanya Ramer

God is with you.

And also with you.

Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts.

We lift them up to You.

As we gather at this table.

In anticipation and hope.

God of hopeful expectation,
who enters into our stories,
who births new life into creation,
who invites us into a rich and restoring relationship.
We come before you with humble hearts
To greet you in our midst.

You were there when creation burst into being, with endless possibilities.
You were there when the Israelites tasted liberty, and you opened their eyes to new freedom.
You were there, with Mary, when she became a powerful vessel and witness, to birth love into the world.
You were there with Jesus when he prayed in the garden, when he confronted death and brought resurrection life to your people.

And you are with us now, as we gather at your table;
Your meal and gift of love for all who come hungry and thirsty today.
We come, like those first disciples,
gathered around the table to hear Jesus' words of promise and hope.
On the night that he last ate with his disciples,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had finished, Jesus took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new promise of life and love, poured out for all of you,
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his life, his death and his resurrection,
We offer these fruits of creation, bread and wine,
And ourselves in grateful service.

Thank you for your Spirit who works in and among us,
in times of hope-filled anticipation.
Who strengthens and sustains us,
and who, challenges and prods us.
Who gives us life and continues to surprise us with extravagant grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
All honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer II

Rev. Rob Wiesner

For the power of love in human life and history,
we give thanks and praise.

Long ago our ancestors knew love's power
and they became the tellers of love's tale.
Love bound them in covenant,
teaching them to live in community
with compassion and concern
for the poorest among them.

Yet centuries of domination and violence
shaped a different kind of community
based on selfishness and inequality.

In the struggle against oppression,
Jesus became the face of love,
showing us the way to abundant life.
In word and deed, he announced
love's new reign of justice, reconciliation, and peace.
Filled with the courage and passion of love's spirit,
he gave his life to challenge the unjust systems of this world.

On the last night of his earthly life,
as he shared a meal with his friends,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his followers, saying:
"Share this bread among you; this is my body which will be broken for justice.
Do this to remember me."

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Share this wine among you; this is my blood which will be shed for liberation.
Do this to remember me."

God of love, spirit of compassion,
bless us and this bread and wine.
May this meal be food and drink for our journey—
renewing, sustaining, and making us whole.

When we eat this bread and drink from this cup
we experience again the presence of Jesus in our midst. **Amen**

Portions borrowed from www.sacredside.com, with modifications by Rev. Rob Wiesner

Eucharistic Prayer III

Rev. Rob Wiesner

We thank You, Lord God,
For breaking into our world, our lives and our experience.
We thank You, O Christ,
For this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.
We thank You, O Spirit,
For Your Presence and Your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.

In this moment of worship we embrace Your presence again, O God.

And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer we proclaim again Your dream for the world, O Saviour.

And we offer You our resources.

In this moment of giving we hear Your call again, O Lord.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the message of
Advent:

God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us.

So, we remember Jesus' birth and life, His suffering and victory.

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends;
He took the loaf of bread and blessed it, then breaking it, He offered it to them saying:
This is my body broken for you. Eat this in memory of me.

After the meal, He took the cup of wine and blessed it, then He offered it to them saying:
This is my blood shed for you. Drink this in memory of me.

So, we eat and we drink and we remember.

With hope and joy in the new life which comes here and now in God's kingdom.

God of Grace,

Come to us again in this meal, and as we share this bread and wine,
may we share in Christ's sacrifice;

May we offer ourselves to you again, and may we become one with Christ
and with each other – a single, unified body. **Amen**

*Portions borrowed from www.sacredside.com, with modifications by Rev. Rob Wiesner
Bold portions may be assigned to the Assistant Minister on behalf of the congregation*

Blessing I

May the God of truth grow your capacity for difference.
May Jesus show you the way of love and hope.
May the Spirit anchor you in the complexity of life
Let us go forth in the name of God,
Creator, ✝ Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen**

Debbie Lou Ludolph

Blessing II

May God, for whom nothing is impossible
restore you and bless you.

May Christ, in whom is the dawning of grace,
carry you and gently lead you.

May the Spirit, whose song is gladness,
fill you with peace and comfort. **Amen**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Rev. Katherine Gohm

Blessing III

Creator of sun, moon and stars,
guide our path to the manger:
where angels sing,
shepherds tremble,
and the babe is born.
Good news of great joy:
Emmanuel, God is with us!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Rev. Katherine Gohm

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