

First Sunday of Advent: Nov. 27, 2022

Get Creative! Precede your “Call to Worship” with the sound of an alarm clock ringing, buzzing, or beeping.

Call to Worship

Matt. 24:36-44, Rom. 13:11-14

Leader: Wake up! The days are growing short. Christ is coming!

People: Salvation is nearer to us now than ever before.

Leader: Let us lay aside the works of darkness. Break out the armor of light!

People: Welcome the Lord with music and prayer, heartfelt worship and bold proclamation.

Leader: Welcome the Lord with love and kindness, acts of mercy and caring hearts.

All: Get ready! Jesus comes at an unexpected hour.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we come into your courts with gladness for Christ is coming soon. Awaken us, O God, to the nearness of his presence. Open our eyes to the signs of the times. Open our hearts to your purpose for our lives. Open our hands that we may serve Christ in faithful anticipation of the joy that is to come. We pray through Christ our Lord, the One who was and is and is to come. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent: Dec. 4, 2022

Get creative! Precede your “Call to Worship” with a voice outside the sanctuary, loudly calling for repentance.

Call to Worship

Matt. 3:1-12, Psalm 72

Leader: Shhh! Did you hear that?

People: A voice cries out in the wilderness of our world.

Leader: Repent! The Kingdom is near!

People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make the path straight!

Leader: Change us, O God, from the inside out.

All: May righteousness flourish and peace abound, for Jesus comes with unquenchable fire.

Opening Prayer

Mighty and Merciful God, great is your name and greatly to be praised. This morning, John the Baptist strides out of the wilderness and into our sanctuary with a bold cry for repentance. Open our ears, O God, that we may hear his call. Renew us in your love and refresh us in your purpose so we may bear good fruit, worthy of your coming Kingdom. We pray through Christ our Lord, the One who was and is and is to come. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent: Dec. 11, 2022

Get Creative! Precede your “Call to Worship” by tossing confetti as you process with cries of “Rejoice!” Or, toss some confetti from the lectern/pulpit. Or, have the church’s children toss confetti from their seats.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:47-55

Leader: Rejoice! God’s favor rests upon us.

People: Christ is coming to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Leader: Be strong and do not fear! God is coming to save us.

People: Water shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Leader: Everlasting joy shall be upon us; sorrow and sighing shall flee.

All: The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.

Opening Prayer

Generous and loving God, we rejoice in your goodness to us, made known in our Savior Jesus Christ. With Mary of Nazareth, we celebrate your topsy-turvy love that lifts up the lowly, humbles the haughty, and finds us when we need it most. Be at work within us this day, so that we may bring to birth the goodness of your Kingdom for the blessing of all people. We pray through Christ our Lord, the Mighty One, who was and is and is to come. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Dec. 18, 2022

Get Creative! Have a creche (nativity set) on the Lord’s Table. Precede your “Call to Worship” by placing Mary and Joseph together in the creche. Or, have two children or two volunteers from your congregation do this.

Call to Worship

Matt. 1:18-25, Is. 7:10-16

Leader: Do not be afraid!

People: The redemption of our Lord is drawing near.

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don’t lean on your own understanding.

People: The young woman has conceived and shall bear a Son.

Leader: Have hope; Jesus comes to save us!

All: Emmanuel! God is with us!

Opening Prayer

God our redeemer, how thankful we are that you have drawn near to us in Jesus of Nazareth. Speak to us, as you did to Joseph. Lift us above all fear and despair. Grant that we may face the moral quandaries and complexities of our lives with hope and grace, for you are with us. We pray through Christ our Lord, the One who was and is and is to come. Amen.

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24, 2022

Get Creative! Begin with a darkened sanctuary. Stand at the Lord's Table and strike a match. Light a candle and place it next to the creche. Be sure the baby Jesus has been added to the scene. Or, have two children from the church bring the baby Jesus forward and place him in the creche before you light the candle.

Call to Worship

Luke 2:1-14, Is. 9:2-7

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: We come in search of good tidings of great joy.

Leader: A Savior has been born for us in the City of David. Christ the Lord!

People: A child has been born for us; a Son is given to us.

Leader: Come! Let us go to Bethlehem; let us join the shepherds and choirs of angels.

All: Come! Let us worship Christ, the newborn king.

Opening Prayer

Holy and almighty God, when the world was dark, your Christ-light shone in the darkness. This night, we gather once again to hear the old, old story and sing your glory in the highest. Shine your light upon us. Speak to us the timeless truth: love comes down at Christmas with grace and welcome for all. We pray through Christ our Lord, who was and is and is to come, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.