

# 2021 Advent: Restore Us, O God

[2021 Liturgy Advent with CommunionDownload](#)

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION



In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming, and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will. And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we and by those who despair more deeply than do we. Look upon your church ... in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue and in this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome. Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips. We do not want our several worlds to end. Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new.

Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The vocabulary of Advent is made up of words like longing, preparation, darkness, waiting, and promise: rich theological themes that are fundamental to our understanding of what it means to live in the now and the not yet of our faith. Perhaps even more poignantly, the language of Advent speaks both a word of lament *and* hope that might resonate amid the injustices and brokenness we witness and experience daily.

Seattle Pacific University Office of University Ministries,  
"Advent 2017: Restore,"  
<https://spu.edu/administration/office-of-university-ministries/oum-news/2017/restore-2017>

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The days grow short, and all creation groans in anxious expectation.

People: In our hearts, we yearn for Your presence, Holy One, coming to restore the goodness of our reality.

Leader: We gather now as best we can, searching for new signs of hope even as we lament.

People: Give us the grace and impatience to work for justice even as we await your coming fresh among us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, we know you make your home among us, transforming all creation.

All: Restore us, O God, for we would be a sign of hope in these dark days.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **HYMN**

## **SILENCE**

## CONFESSION

Leader: Holy One, you call us to live and love  
in your presence now and in your promise yet to come.

People: We confess that, though we long for your coming,  
we doubt you will come.

Restore us, O God.

Leader: You call us to wait in darkness  
and prepare for the coming of your great Light.

People: We confess that in our holiday tiredness  
we settle for our own small, twinkling lights.

Refresh us, O God.

Leader: You call us to long impatiently with our whole being  
for you to come and make all things new.

All: We confess that, in unbearable pain and unfixable  
situations,

our impatience is for salvation right now.

Revive us, O God.

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy One, with us now and still coming,  
loves us, hears our prayers, and gives us grace to wait  
amid all the injustices and brokenness.

We are forgiven and restored.

All: Amen.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

## INTERCESSION AND PETITION

## COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today

to claim our relationship with you.

We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;  
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation  
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

## **HYMN**

### **THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

### **OFFERING**

### **COMMUNION**

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the heavenly feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the  
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us,  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once.

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven, we make one circle

of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: Eternal Promise, in the midst of our doubt and fear  
we give thanks for the promise of your coming.

All: Restore us, O God, fill us with a hope that casts out  
our fear and doubt.

Leader 2: We give thanks for Jesus the Christ, who came in  
weakness

And with his life, death, and resurrection  
showed us the power of your love for the world.

All: Restore us, O God, so that in our weakness  
we may find your strength.

Leader 1: We give thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
whose whispers of encouragement  
enable us to live in the now and not yet of our faith.

All: Restore us, O God, and give us the courage  
to wait for your coming with grace and impatience.

Leader 2: We give you thanks for your Holy Church,  
where we can raise our voices in lament and hope  
that all things will be made new.

All: Restore us, O God!  
Come in your power,  
come in your weakness,  
and make all things new.

## BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall never hunger;  
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night he gave himself up, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of grain and grape,  
and work of human hands  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

#### SHARE THE ELEMENTS

*Please use what you have at home as you eat the bread and  
drink from the cup today.*

*If you do not have grape juice, use whatever is convenient.*

*As a sign of gathering in spirit while scattered,*

*you may want to lift your bread toward your camera as we break  
bread together.*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks  
for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.  
Bless this Body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully  
to our call to be your servants,

with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Let us leave this sacred gathering,  
restored in our anticipation of your imminent coming,  
with hope encouraged and grace renewed,  
as we greet each other with signs of peace.

All: Amen.