

All Shall Be Well

Advent Week 2 Year A

Liturgy of the Word for Children



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Please note: Elements of this liturgy can be adapted for classroom prayer and ritual.

Gathering Hymn & Entrance Procession: COME GATHER CHILDREN

(Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

During the singing of the Gathering Hymn the Entrance Procession makes its way into the worship space.

Order of Procession:

- Processional Cross bearer
- Potted plant bearer (a living plant that has some foliage but also some barren sections on it.)
- Lectionary bearer
- Presider

The Lectionary is enthroned in the sacred space. The potted plant is placed on purple drapes on the floor in front of the lectern. The Advent Wreath is already enthroned.

Welcome & Lighting of the First and Second Advent Candles:

The Presider welcomes the community and then says:

We gather here today to celebrate the second week of Advent. Last week in lighting our first Advent Candle, we reflected on living in the light of Jesus. A child lights the first Advent Candle. This week, as we light our second violet candle, we prepare ourselves to hear God’s Word, which reminds us, in our Advent waiting, that all will be well. Another child lights the second Advent Candle from the first candle. (To ensure the flow of this ritual, have these two children stand near the Advent Wreath, each with a taper in their hands, ready to light their candle at the appropriate time).

Penitential Rite

Presider:

Let us pause before hearing the Word of God today to reflect on how we are living our lives.

(PAUSE)

Presider: Lord Jesus, you are the Promised One and in you ‘all shall be well’. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you bring hope for the hopeless and through you ‘all shall be well’. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you make the impossible possible and with you ‘all shall be well’. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Presider:

Heal and forgive us in your great mercy and tenderness, O God, and draw us ever closer to your loving heart.

Opening Prayer

Presider:

Let us pray. God of Hope, we long for the coming of your Son Jesus, for in his presence, 'all shall be well'. During this Advent journey, we pray that we may come to realise and experience the power of your transforming love in our own hearts and lives. We ask this through Jesus, our promise of hope.

All: Amen.

First Reading: ISAIAH 11: 1-10

Before the reading is proclaimed, the reader lifts the Word of God up before the community. A server comes and incenses the Word and the lectern. The reader reads verse 1 of the text and then pauses as a senior student comes forward and picks up the plant at the foot of the lectern. S/he moves beside the reader, and then displays the plant to the community. As the reader continues, the student slowly and tenderly figures the foliage of the plant and its barren branches, highlighting its growth and its struggle. When the reading has ended, the plant is placed back at the foot of the lectern and it is incensed as the responsorial psalm is sung.

Sung Response: COME LORD JESUS (Hi God 2)

Gospel Acclamation: PREPARE YE (Musical 'Godspell')

Gospel: MATTHEW 3: 1-12

Homily:

The gospel tells us, through John the Baptist, that we can expect more of God in Jesus. So too does the reading from Isaiah. It reminds us that God can even make the impossible happen, change hard and fearful things into hopeful life-giving experiences. The reading from Isaiah is full of images that speak of how God can make the impossible possible. Give examples from the text, e.g. the wolf and the lamb live together, the lion and the calf feed together. (Is 11: 6). Highlight the plant again, pointing out that it struggles to grow in some ways but there is also the sign of life in it. Invite the community to think of 'the more' or 'the impossible' that they want Jesus to transform and make right in their own lives... Can they think of a symbol or image they can remember during Advent that will remind them of this. Allow a minute for them to think of this. Invite them now to pray quietly in their hearts, that they will try, during Advent, to trust God more deeply to make all things work for good, even the impossible!

Prayer of the Faithful

Presider:

We come before our gracious God with faithful, trusting hearts.

Reader:

**We pray for peace in our world... that all people may live without fear. (PAUSE)
Lord, hear us.**

All: Lord, hear our prayer so that all shall be well.

Reader:

We pray for unity in our world... that all people will respect, love and serve one another. (PAUSE)

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer so that all shall be well.

Reader:

We pray for forgiveness in our community... that we may be instruments of reconciliation, always ready to forgive those who hurt us. (PAUSE) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer so that all shall be well.

Reader:

We pray for love in our hearts... that we will reach out to those who are sad and lonely and welcome them into our circle of friends. (PAUSE) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer so that all shall be well.

Reader:

We pray for joy in our hearts... that through us others will know the abundance of your goodness. (PAUSE)

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer so that all shall be well.

Presider:

Lord, hear the prayers of your children so that all shall be well.

Closing Prayer

Presider:

Let us pray.

God of Hope,

In you all things are possible and in you all shall be well. During our Advent journey, transform our hearts and lives with the coming of your promised Son, Jesus. We make our prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Final Hymn: OUR GOD IS NEAR (Our God Is Near)

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Duration of Liturgy: Approximately 30 minutes

Props & Resources:

- Processional Cross
- Advent Wreath
- Lectionary
- Potted plant – a seedling or sprout or young plant which is struggling
- Small table draped in purple cloth for wreath
- Purple cloth to place on floor under wreath
- Thurible, incense, charcoal, matches, thurible stand

People Required:

- Processional Cross bearer
- Lectionary bearer
- Potted plant bearer
- Person to light Advent candles
- Reader for First Reading

- Thurible bearer
- Person to display plant
- Reader for Gospel
- Readers for Prayer of the Faithful
- Presider

Music Suggestions: These songs and hymns are suggestions only – there are others that you would know that are suitable for this liturgy. The important thing about choosing music is that whatever is chosen needs to support and enhance the ritual for which it is being used. (See notes on the Music Resource Page on this site)

- **Come Gather Children** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Come Lord Jesus** (Carey Landry – Hi God 2)
- **Prepare Ye** (Musical Godspell)
- **Our God Is Near** (Monica Brown - Our God Is Near)