

Year A; Second Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for December 4, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- Romans 15:4-13
- Matthew 3:1-12

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 72*)

One: Blessed is the LORD, the God of Israel,

All: who alone does wondrous things.

One: Blessed be his glorious name forever;

All: may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Romans 15*)

The Apostle Paul commands us to welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed us for the glory of God. Let us confess those times when we have not been welcoming or when our welcome has been exclusive.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Romans 15*)

God of all creation, you came in human form that all might know you — people of all nations whether Jew or Gentile. Our Lord came as a servant to all that they might know the truth of God, that he might confirm the promises of the patriarchs, and that even outsiders might glorify God for his mercy. We confess that our welcome is not always so broad interrupting the work of peace. We often welcome when it's convenient, and our welcome is often toward those who are like ourselves or toward those who might most benefit us. Forgive our limited vision, and grow us into the image of our Lord. In his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Matthew 3*)

John the Baptist called those around him to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” He further called them to bear fruit worthy of repentance. Go and bear fruit and trust in the promise that our Lord will gather that which bears fruit — the wheat that is separated from the chaff. Having been reconciled to God and one another, he will gather them into the kingdom of heaven where they will live with him into eternity. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Isaiah 11)*

Prince of Peace, we so long for peace in this world where violence, abuse, even war continue to be methods of achieving one's goals. We long for the day the wolf shall live with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. We long for the day when there will not be hurt nor destruction on all your holy mountain — the day when the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD. In pursuit of this end and your kingdom, we offer these gifts. Guide our church leaders to invest them wisely for your kingdom work. Amen.

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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