

Gathering Rite: Lead Us to Your Light

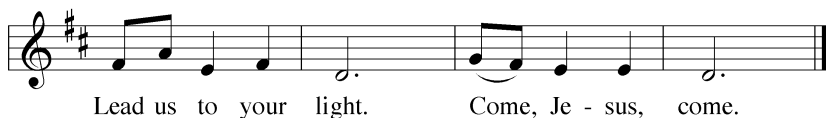
The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshiping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Advent gathering rite does with contemporary song and responses.

LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

The choir introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;
Bring us the gift of salvation. **refrain**

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;
Come, now, and bring us your good news. **refrain**

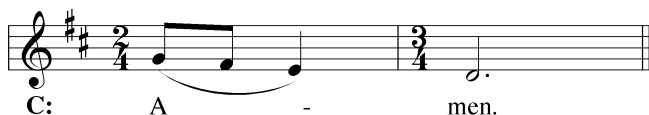
Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;
Come with us on earth here to dwell. **refrain**

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;
Banish the darkness of night. **refrain**

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. **refrain**

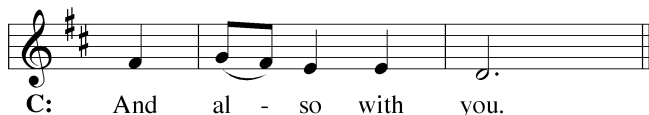
GREETING

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

M: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom because all have turned away from you. Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Yet we fill our days and lives with busyness. We do not make time for your Word and Sacrament. Christ, have mercy.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Make us ready through the blood of Jesus to meet you with uplifted faces. Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



C: A - men.

ABSOLUTION

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

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PSALM OF THE DAY

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

M: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

C: Amen. (spoken)

HYMN OF THE DAY

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC.

OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING

O Antiphons of Advent

The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshipers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the Scriptural promise or prophecy.

M: Let us pray

Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, Come and save us, O Lord our God.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the most High, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, our wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Lord of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai; come in your glory and redeem us.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O root of Jesse, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will give praise; come quickly to deliver us.

**C: (sung) Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem.
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
Bring them in victory through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Key of David, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness.

**C: (sung) Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

**C: (sung) Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows out to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**C: (sung) Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease
And be yourself the king of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

LORD'S PRAYER

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

HYMN

Please return the service folder to an usher as you leave so that they may be used throughout our midweek Advent services. Thank you.