

# Advent 2005

## Binding Up the Brokenhearted

Seekers Church

A Christian Community

*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

Advent 2005

Binding Up the Brokenhearted

CIRCLE TIME

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

"... To feel abandoned is to deny  
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,  
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;  
the swelling presence, and the chorus crowding  
out your solo voice.

...

"Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the conversation. The kettle is singing even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots have left their arrogant aloofness and seen the good in you at last. All the birds and creatures of the world are unutterably themselves. Everything is waiting for you."

"Everything Is Waiting for You." David Whyte, pg 6.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Greetings, favored ones! The Holy One is with you.

People: What sort of greeting is this?

Leader: Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.

People: The Holy Spirit has come upon us,  
and the power of the Most High overshadows us.

Leader: The One who calls us is coming towards us:  
Jesus, the Christ, the Child of God.

All: Here we are, the servants of the Holy One;

let it be with us according to God's word.

## **INVOCATION**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SILENCE**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

Leader: A voice says "Shout!"

And I said: "What shall I shout?"

Voice 1: Raise your voice, people of God.

Make it good and loud.

Voice 2: Tell all the cities of this land:

"Look! Your God is coming!"

All: Like a shepherd God will gather up the lambs,  
and lead the nursing ewes to good pasture.

## SILENCE

## PRAYERS

### CONFESSION

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down.

Voice 1: We tremble in your presence.

Voice 2: We sorrow for our transgression.

Leader: No ear has heard, no eye has seen  
any God besides you.

Voice 1: You work for those who wait for you.

Voice 2: Our sins take us away from you.

All: We can not see you.  
We fear you have abandoned us.

### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE

Leader: "Comfort, comfort my people," says our God.

Like a shepherd,

God gathers us in loving arms

like a mother to her breast.

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### JESUS PRAYER

All: Eternal One, Father and Mother of us all,

Holy is your name.

Let justice and mercy fill all Creation

and let us recognize

that every thought and thing belongs to you.

Feed us with the bread we need for today.

Forgive our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Stand with us in trial and temptation.

Free us from the grip of all that is evil.

For you alone are creating our universe,

now and forever.

Amen.

## **HYMN**

## **THE WORD**

FIRST LESSON

SILENCE

EPISTLE

SILENCE

GOSPEL

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

## **OFFERING**

*The first Sunday of each month we switch to a Communion Liturgy here.*

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader:           Let us go forth, bringing good news to the  
oppressed,

                  binding up the brokenhearted,  
                  and giving thanks in all things.  
                  May the God of peace hold us in grace;  
                  and may our spirit and soul and body  
                  be kept sound and blameless  
                  at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All:                Amen.

## **Worship Resources**

Call to Worship adapted from Luke 1:26-38

Confession adapted from Isaiah 64:1-9

Assurance adapted from Isaiah 40:1-2

Responsive reading adapted from Isaiah 40:3-11

Benediction adapted from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11