

Worship Plan - Church Year C

2021-2022



This planning guide is not meant to be a "one size fits all" approach to the new hymnal—not even "two sizes fit all" (Order of Service, conservative and ambitious). But it is a starting point that we hope worship planners will find useful. See “Additional hymn suggestions” below for resources to enable easy customization to better fit local circumstances. The sections titled “Optional New Hymns” and “Notes for Conservative and Ambitious” for each day are especially helpful in how they alert planners about hymns/songs that require some advance preparation. It's never best to pick a new hymn tune and hope for the best!

Series Theme

Christian Worship provides an updated three-year lectionary for the Christian calendar along with appointed prayers, psalms, and gospel acclamations. Thematic Sundays are a chief feature of the new lectionary. All the resources share a common focus. The Gospel sets the theme for the day and largely matches the Gospel selections in other three-year lectionaries. The First Reading features more Old Testament narratives that match the theme of the Gospel. The Second Reading no longer comes from sets of continual readings but is a selection from New Testament epistles that supports the Sunday's Gospel. The Prayer of the Day, Psalm of the Day, Gospel Acclamation, and Hymn of the Day are appointed to match the Sunday theme. (From *CW: Commentary on the Propers*, Year C.)

Theme of the Day

The themes for each day reflect (or are identical to) those found in *CW: Commentary on the Propers*.

Explanation of the Theme of the Day

The explanations below usually quote material from *CW: Commentary on the Propers*. But the published Commentary provides much additional material, including (in part): 1) a more thorough description of the day's theme, 2) far more analysis of each reading (also the appointed psalm), including occasional reference to the original languages, and 3) the Prayer of the Day (which cannot be included in the online planner due to copyrights).

Note a difference between the explanations below and the longer ones in the published Commentary: those found in this planner quickly and briefly show connections between readings and the theme of the day. The longer versions provide more depth for worship planners and preachers.

Order *CW: Commentary on the Propers*, Year C from NPH: <https://online.nph.net/church-supplies/categories/hymnals-songbooks/christian-worship-suite>.

Additional Hymn Suggestions

Additional hymn suggestions are available in *Christian Worship: Service Builder* and in *Christian Worship: Planning Guide*, available from NPH: <https://online.nph.net/church-supplies/categories/hymnals-songbooks/christian-worship-suite>

CW: Planning Guide includes several hymn indexes, including an exhaustive Scripture index for the hymns.

Supporting Musical Arrangements

Choral and keyboard music supporting new hymns may be found at NPH (online.nph.net) by searching on '[cw21choral](#)' or '[cw21keyboard](#).'

Notes: The reading marked with asterisks is the preaching text for that Sunday. The abbreviation “GA” stands for Gospel Acclamation.

Worship Plan - Church Year C

2021-2022



11/28/2021 - First Sunday in Advent

SERIES THEME

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.

THEME OF THE DAY

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF

What would it be like to meet God? We know he is almighty and holy. He loathes sin. No wonder that when God appears to his Old Testament people, their first response is typically terror. But when Jesus Christ came into our world, he hid his glory and power. He humbled himself so that sinners would be drawn to him rather than driven away in fear.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16 - In response to their sin, the Lord allowed the nation of Israel to be conquered and humbled. Yet, he promised that from David's royal line, a Savior would come to restore God's people.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 - When the Lord comes near on Judgment Day, his followers will be found blameless and holy. Why? Because Christ sustains our faith using humble means—God's Word and sacraments.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 19:28-40 - Jesus enters Jerusalem humbly, riding a donkey to his death. By that death, the Lord of all becomes the Savior of all.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Ambitious:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Opening Hymn:

302 - Prepare the Royal Highway

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 24A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

301 - Savior of the Nations, Come

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

303 - O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

Closing Hymn:

313 - Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

Opening: 915 - Hosanna to the Living Lord

Notes for the conservative service:

Though very familiar from previous use, Setting 1 still has some new elements: a new Kyrie and Gospel Acclamation, as well as an updated Preface Dialog. GA can start this year through Advent/Christmas with the seasonal verse.

Notes for the ambitious service:

Some may wish to make use of the Proper Verse for the Gospel Acclamation rather than the seasonal verse printed in the hymnal.

Worship Plan - Church Year C 2021-2022



12/5/2021 - Second Sunday in Advent

SERIES THEME

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.

THEME OF THE DAY

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-7b - Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11 - Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 3:1-6 - In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Ambitious:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Opening Hymn:

308 - There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 66A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. (Luke 3:4,6)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

316 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

*312 - Comfort, Comfort All My People

Closing Hymn:

310:3,4 - Arise, O Christian People

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

311 - Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Closing: 326 - O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

Notes for the conservative service:

Notes for the ambitious service:

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12/12/2021 - Third Sunday in Advent

SERIES THEME

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.

THEME OF THE DAY

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS ENEMIES

Last week we saw that the Lord sends messengers to call us to repentance. This week we learn that those who refuse to heed that call to humble themselves will be humbled anyway. The Lord who once came near in flesh and now comes near in Word and sacrament will one day come near with consuming fire and judgment. The Lord will humble his enemies. This truth does two important things. First, it adds urgency to God's Advent call to repentance. Second, it gives us comfort when we, as God's people, experience opposition from the world. Those who oppress and harm God's people will face justice.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-17 - The prophet Zephaniah urges us to rejoice. Not only has the Lord taken away our punishment, but he will defeat all the enemies of God's people.

SECOND READING

*** Philippians 4:4-7 - When the world opposes Christ and his Church, Christians do not respond with anxiety or anger, but gentleness. We bring all our concerns to God in prayer and rest in his peace of knowing the Lord will humble his enemies in due time.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18 - Who is Christ's enemy? Anyone who refuses the gifts of his grace, received humbly in repentant faith.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Ambitious:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Opening Hymn:

306 - Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Psalm of the Day:

Ps 130A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. (Matthew 11:10)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

324 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

524 - Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Closing Hymn:

929 - May the Peace of God

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

827 - Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

Notes for the conservative service:

Notes for the ambitious service:

Worship Plan - Church Year C 2021-2022



12/19/2021 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

SERIES THEME

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.

THEME OF THE DAY

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE LIFTS UP THE HUMBLD

By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighed down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites. If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has actually done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weaknesses does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the humbled.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a - The humble, tiny town of Bethlehem would be exalted. For there a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10 - We cannot do enough good works or offer enough sacrifices to raise ourselves up to God. So the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 1:39-55 - In Spirit wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Ambitious:

Setting 1
(omit Gloria)

Opening Hymn:

955 - Tell Out My Soul

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 85A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. (Matthew 1:23)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

327 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

*662 - Draw Near

Closing Hymn:

601 - All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

955 - Tell Out, My Soul

956 - Holy Is Your Name

975 - My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

976 - My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

option: opening - 327; pre-sermon - 955

Notes for the conservative service:

Notes for the ambitious service: