

# *OUT OF TIME:*

## SUNDAY LITURGY SAMPLE

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY

These prayers are provided for liturgical use in the worshipping assembly. As with all Barn Geese Worship resources, you are welcome to adapt them as needed to suit your context. Please see the Licensing and Use document in your download package for complete details.

Whenever people of varied ages, backgrounds, and abilities gather for worship, the likelihood is high that some of them do not read. Some of these prayers are intended to be used every Sunday throughout the Advent season, a regularity that will help nonreaders of varying ages to participate fully in worship. In particular, the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Dedication, and the Blessing include simple or repetitive responses.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*To be used throughout the season*

We gather today.

**It is time to worship!**

We listen for God

**It is time to hear!**

We receive God's grace.

**It is time to be loved!**

We leave in peace.

**It is time to serve others!**

As we wait for Jesus' arrival,

Emmanuel, God-with-us,

is already here in this time and place.

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*Scripture and prayers for this rite are specific to each Sunday's date. When planning for the lighting of your worshipping community's Advent wreath, consider how to involve participants beyond the usual worship leaders. Assign each week to a different household, a different affinity group, or a different ministry within the congregation, such as the youth group, the food pantry volunteers, or the new members' class. You may invite two or more voices to read the scripture and prayer each week or let one person read while others light the candles. The wreath may be lit during the prayer, or while the gathering sings in response, or at another appropriate time. Each week, the congregation sings "Out of Time" or a similar hymn in response to the prayer.*

## November 12

*Scripture to be read aloud:*

“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (Matthew 25:13)

Let us pray.

God of already's, never's, and everything in between:

It is hard for us to sit with uncertainty.

We do not know when you will return,

we do not know if it's too late to prepare,

we do not even know exactly how to get ready.

As we light the first candle on this wreath,

dwell with us in this uncertain time.

Meet us in the space between always and never.

Help us name our grief for what's past,

and our hope for what's to come.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks together for all God's gifts as we offer them back to God. To every prompt, I invite you to respond with this simple phrase: “Thank you.”

Loving God,

For the time we have, we say:

**Thank you.**

For the gifts we offer, we say:

**Thank you.**

For the chance to help others, we say:

**Thank you.**

For the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, we say:

**Thank you.**

For the ways you are changing the world, we say:

**Thank you.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help.

**Amen.**