

Pax Christi USA Advent prayer service

Monday, December 15, 2025

8:30-9 PM Eastern

Third week of Advent

This week's service is hosted by the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team – our theme is the dignity of every person.



Welcome – Camila Perez

Opening song – [For Everyone Born \(A Place At The Table\)](#)

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Lighting of candles on the Advent wreath – Mary Ellen Quinn

As we light the two candles of our Advent wreath, we remember Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, traveling far from home in faithful obedience to God's call. The third candle of Advent – called the Shepherd's candle – symbolizes **Joy**, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. During difficult times, we remember that it is important to find and embrace joy, for we cannot celebrate Christ among us without it. The red candle that will be lit represents our solidarity with the Palestinian community.

As we begin, we turn to God who gathers us as one people. We pray: *God of all nations and peoples, You formed every human being in Your image. You gather us into one human family. Bless this time of prayer. Heal our hearts of prejudice. Strengthen our resolve to work for justice. As we light this candle, may Your light guide us to build a world where every person is honored and welcomed. Amen.*

First reading, Ephesians 2:13–19 – Adrienne Curry

Now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace. He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

The word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel reading, Luke 10:25–37 – Marian Barber

An expert on the Law stood up to test Jesus and said, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” The expert on the Law replied, “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, said to Jesus, “And just who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two pieces of silver and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who showed compassion.” Jesus replied, “Then go and do the same.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Litany for racial justice and human dignity – Girard Berry

We now pray a litany so that all may participate.

Our response is: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For the times we have remained silent in the face of racism...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For communities divided by fear, violence, or discrimination...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For courage to speak truth and work for change...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For the Church, that we may embody the welcome of Christ...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For all who suffer because of prejudice or exclusion...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

For a world where every person's dignity is honored...

Response: *God of justice, heal our hearts*

Quiet reflection

Consider your response to the following:

How is God calling me to confront racism in my heart, my community, and my nation?

How can I more deeply welcome every person as Christ welcomes me?

Please feel free to enter prayer intentions in the chat.

Closing prayer – Teresa Sullivan

Let us pray:

God of all people,

You created us in love and call us to live as one.

Break down walls of division. Strengthen our commitment to justice.

Give us courage to confront racism wherever it appears—

in our hearts, in our communities, in our institutions, and in our world.

May Your Spirit guide us so that our words and actions reflect the radical welcome of Jesus.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for praying with us tonight.