



United Intergenerational Ministry Worship Leader's Guide - Advent I

Series: "In Reverence, Experience God's Holiness"

First Sunday or mid-week in Advent- Series C

Scripture Base: : Jeremiah 33:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; and Luke 21:29-31
Complements UIM SS 69-02

Righteousness: "A Righteous Branch From David's Line"

Based on Jeremiah 33:15 - In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Objective: Help generations to reverently experience God's holiness through the pure and holy joy that comes through the righteous Branch that sprouts from David's line - Jesus our Savior.

Preparations:

- **For the Interactive Lesson:** You will need two matching white towels or pieces of cloth. Put holes all over one piece, big holes, and rub it in dirt to make it look really dirty. Keep the other towel absolutely white and clean. Place each towel in a separate bag and make sure the bags look different so you can tell them apart.
- **For the Worship Bulletin:** For a copy-ready bulletin in Adobe (.pdf): Copy the cover and back page back to back with pages one and four. Fold it in half to make your bulletin. Copy pages two and three back to back and cut in half to make a half page insert. Place insert into your folded bulletin and your bulletin is complete. You are also free to copy and paste from(.pdf) to tailor your bulletin to your needs.

Opening Hymn: To include children, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase so they can listen for it and repeat it. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung so all can be blessed by the message.

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" LSB 359/ TLH 645/ LW 67

Opening Sentences: To read responsively, generations may respond to the leader with both lines in traditional style or divide the congregation into two groups (*pulpit side and lectern side are suggested*) and assign each group one line for UIM variety. UIM worship provides shorter lines and repetition to help children and every age and situation that can benefit from these to participate. To specifically include children ask those around them to cue them when to and help them to respond. Words are printed for those with hearing challenges, but with their permission, invite those sitting near them to point to the words of the response when it should be said to help them participate.

Response for Generations: Line 1: **For You bless the righteous, O Lord;**
Line 2: **You cover [them] with favor as with a shield. (Psalm 5:12)**

Leader: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. (Psalm 143:2)

Response

Leader: Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

Response

Leader: As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10) **Response**

A Psalm of Guidance: Adapted from Psalm 25:1-10

To read responsively, generations may respond to the leader with all three lines in traditional style or divide the congregation into three groups (*pulpit side, lectern side, and balcony are suggested*) and assign each group one line for UIM variety. UIM worship provides shorter lines and repetition to help children and every age and situation that can benefit from these to participate. To specifically include children, ask those around them to cue them when to and help them to respond. Words are printed for those with hearing challenges, but with their permission, invite those sitting near them to point to the words of the response when it should be said to help them participate.

Response of Generations: Line 1: **Teach us Your ways, O Lord.**
Line 2: **Lead us in Your Truth**
Line 3: **For You are the God of our salvation.**

Leader: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust. **Response**

Leader: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame. **Response**

Leader: Through Your steadfast love, remember not the sins of my youth. **Response**

Leader: Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep Your covenant. **Response**

Confession: You may read this confession in unison. To include children and those with vision and reading challenges, read a few words at time so they can repeat them after you to help them participate in worship. Remind those sitting near those with hearing challenges to point to words as they are repeated to help them participate in worship.

All Generations: We confess that we are not righteous. We do not do good. We deserve only God's wrath and punishment. We do not always walk in His ways. We fail to declare His Truth. We fail to keep His commands. Forgive us, O Lord. Remember our sins no more. Guide us to walk in holiness and righteousness. Be our shield. Strengthen us to depend on and trust in You.

Absolution: If this absolution is being spoken by someone other than a pastor, omit the last sentence in the brackets. Pastors may omit the last sentence in this absolution before the brackets.

Leader: Through our confession of sins, O Lord, You have promised to forgive us from all unrighteousness and remember our sins no more. For this reason, as a fellow servant of Christ the crucified and one redeemed through God's love, I can declare to you that all our sins are forgiven. [As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.]

Hymn of God's Holiness: To include children, invite and encourage those sitting near them to help them sing "Holy, holy, holy" at the beginning of each verse. This and any kind of repetition in worship can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung and be blessed by the message.

"Holy, Holy, Holy" LSB 507 /TLH 246/ LW 168

UIM Interactive Lesson FOR ALL GENERATIONS: "Be Holy"

Based on: 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

You Will Need: Two white towels: Put holes in an old white towel and rub it in dirt to make it look really dirty. The other white towel must be new or at least look new.

INSTRUCTIONS : If you have children present, invite them to come forward to help them participate in Worship, but present this lesson even if you do not have children present. UIM Interactive Lessons are for all generations. As you present this lesson, speak to the children but bring the entire congregation into your conversation.

- I. God commands His people to be holy throughout the Bible in both the Old Testament (Leviticus 11:44,45; 19:2) and in the New Testament (1 Peter 1:15-16) . Yet the passages from God’s Word in our Opening Sentences from the Old and New Testaments make it clear that no one is righteous and without sin. While God wants and commands us to be holy, we are all sinners and cannot be holy. Maybe sometimes we can be good and helpful and kind, but we can never be holy like God because we are sinners.
- II. Say:“However, I do have something that is very holey.” Hold up the towel with holes and show everyone the holes. Add: “Go ahead; laugh. This towel may be filled with holes, but it is not holy like God, is it? In our worship service, we are going to learn how we become holy even though we are sinners and just as dirty as this towel. It all has to do with our realizing how sinful we are and how much we need Jesus to forgive us and cleanse us of all our sins. In Psalm 51:7, King David says that forgiveness washes us “*whiter than snow.*” Hold up the new white towel with no holes in it and add: “Christ’s forgiveness of all our sins makes us brand new in God’s sight just like this towel.”
- III. In this worship service, we are going to learn what it means to be righteous or blameless in God’s sight even as we continue to sin. In fact, it is because our sins pile up and bring us guilt and pain that we seek our Savior and repent and are forgiven and we are able to “in reverence, experience God’s holiness,” the title and objective of this Worship Series. *(If you are offering the UIM SS Lesson that complements this UIM Worship Service, mention that those who attend will learn about Mary, who was holy and blameless yet sinful and chosen by God to give birth to Jesus, the Savior through whom all our sins are forgiven.)*
- IV. So, in reverence, prepare to experience God’s holiness in your faith and lives in this service and every service in this Worship Series because through Christ your sins are forgiven!

(Invite those who have come forward to return to their seats.)

Options for Readings:

- *Option 1:* Worship Leader reads all readings.
- *Option 2:* Invite different generations to read the first two readings during the service. Always have the Worship Leader read the Gospel to give it reverent significance. Remember, you can help very young readers by reading words to them that they can repeat after you.
- *Option 3:* Invite all generations to repeat the words of the first two readings, a few words at a time, in unison to include all generations.

Note: Always remind readers to state chapter and verse after every reading to teach generations where these passages are located so they can use them in their times of need.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-15

14 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:13

So that [the Lord] may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Vignette to the Gospel: Read responsively or include every generation by inviting volunteers of all ages to read parts, or ask the pulpit side to read even numbered parts and the lectern side to read odd numbered parts. For very young readers, read a few words to them at a time that they can repeat after you. Even practice the response before you begin to help children learn it and remind those sitting near children to help them respond to keep them involved. Words are printed for those with hearing challenges, but with their permission, invite those sitting near them to point to the words of the response when they should be said to help them participate.

Response of Generations: Be righteous and holy through Christ until He comes again.

Part 1: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11) **Response**

Part 2: For all who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing. (Malachi 4:2) **Response**

Part 3: They will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. (Mark 13:26) **Response**

Part 4: Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. (Matthew 24:35) **Response**

Gospel Reading: Ask generations to stand out of reverence (1) for words that our Lord actually said when He walked on earth or (2) for words that were said about Him. *Option:* For deeper effect, process with a cross to the middle of the center aisle and read the Gospel.

Luke 21:29-31:

29 And [Jesus] told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near."

Sermon Hymn: To include children, invite and encourage those sitting near them to help them sing the words that are repeated at the end of each verse. This and any kind of repetition in worship can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung and be blessed by the message

"Joy to the World" LSB 387/ TLH 87/ LW 53

UIM Sermon: "Our Hearts Will Swell With Pure and Holy Joy!"

Based on Isaiah 60:4-5: "Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you."

Introduction: What is most wonderful about UIM Worship is that it can involve all generations. Explain to generations that each time they hear the worship leader say "**In righteousness and holiness,**" they should respond with the words "**Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy!**" This response is also the title of the sermon to make it easy to remember. (NOTE: The worship leader concludes with the words printed at the end of each response.). Always remind children to listen for the worship leader's cue so they can respond and participate. Give those with hearing challenges printed copies of the sermon or of this outline and ask those seated near them to point to the responses so they can respond right along with everyone else! If you are uncomfortable with having worshipers respond or would like to ask for a response for some sermons and not others to add variety and meet the needs of those who may like one or the other, you may omit the response, but do try to make it part of your sermon by saying it yourself for stronger emphasis and effect.

I. As much as we may love singing about the joy Jesus brings to the world, we often fail to claim the joy He offers. Our Sermon Text describes the future joy of people flocking to the Lord from afar, a joy that will thrill and exult the hearts of believers who see it because it will truly be a sight to behold. Yet through the Righteous Branch of Jesse's Tree, Jesus, we can have His joy NOW. His joy is the pure and holy joy that comes as we experience God's holiness, the theme and mission of our Advent Worship Series based on 1 Thessalonians 4:7, *For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.* This service helps us experience God's holiness through Christ's righteousness. Earlier in our Psalm, we asked God to teach us His ways, which are pure and holy. And He not only commands us to be holy but has made us holy through Christ's forgiveness as we learned in our Interactive Lesson. This means that as we live

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy! **Leader:** NOW!

II. However, to live in Christ's righteousness and holiness, we must, as the title of our Advent Christmas Worship Series points out, experience God's holiness *"in reverence."* While many desire to experience God's holiness, it is easy to overlook the need to do so *in reverence*. True reverence for God is fading in our world today. This is extremely troubling because it is in the reverence with which we experience God's holiness that pure and holy joy is given and received. So, we need to regain and retain reverence for God. At the very least, this means personally humbling ourselves before God, showing fear and respect for Him, and obeying Him. Our reverence for God can lead others around us to do the same. Still, the kind of reverence in us that helps lead others to reverence for Him also must come from faith that believes in the unseen that Paul admonishes us to fix our eyes on in 2 Corinthians 4:18: *... look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.* As we focus on things eternal, things of God, things that will last forever, reverence for Him will come to live in us and last along with the righteousness and holiness He gives us through Christ. And as we through His strength, not our own, continue to live

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy! **Leader:** NOW!

III. Living in righteousness and pure and holy joy is a glorious existence! However, this is a difficult existence for sinners to maintain every day of our lives until Christ comes again. That is why our Second Reading speaks of our hearts being established blameless in holiness before God through Christ. God has given us the Righteous Branch of Jesse's Tree, Jesus, so that we can have pure and holy joy even when we are still sinners. Our sin-filled lives daily pull us away from the Lord and the joy our Savior offers, but He pulls us back to Himself. No one else can help us, and it is in understanding how much we need the Lord that we seek Him and He finds us. In fact, He is waiting to help and sustain us in our faith and even in our faithlessness. This makes Him our truly amazing God of grace. And it is only as we come to see and understand His amazing grace, not only in spite of but because of our sins, that we become so grateful that we offer God the acceptable worship we read about in Hebrews 12:28, one of the verses on which this Worship Series is based - *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.* Grateful hearts cannot be kept from worship and the study of God's Word. This means that our worship and study of God's Word is a measure of our gratitude and reverence toward God. At the same time, we must remember that our determination to set all else aside for Him is a sign of His strength, not ours. His strength keeps us living in His righteousness and holiness, and as we continue to live

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy! **Leader:** NOW and every day!

IV. Of course, living in the righteousness of Christ, reverently experiencing God's holiness, and having hearts swelling with pure and holy joy does not mean our lives will be free of problems and pain. Christmas and any time of the year can be a sad even a tragic time because of sin. While God gave up His Son to die for us and rise again to forgive our sins, the consequences of sin remain and cause pain and death. But the promises of God and all He has done and continues to do for us through Christ prove He can help us through every problem and tragedy. In fact, our struggles can cause us to turn to Him for help and strength. The more we turn to Him and depend on and trust in Him to help us, the stronger we become in our faith and lives. By no other god and by no other means except by His grace can we be saved in heaven and swell with joy on earth in both good times and in bad times. In Acts 13, the disciples had been persecuted and run out of town, yet verse 52 tells us, *"...the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."* The same Spirit of God comes to us through Christ today and every day. He empowers us to not only survive struggles but be strengthened by them, and as He continues to help us live every day

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy! **Leader:** NOW and every day!

V. The righteousness and holiness of Christ that makes our hearts swell with pure and holy joy did not just happen. Our sacred God, Creator of heaven and earth, planned for it to happen and made it happen down through many generations. After the fall into sin, God promised a Savior when He said to the serpent in Genesis 3:15: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* God renewed His promise or covenant with Abraham in Genesis 22:18: *“And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”* We read Jeremiah’s prophecy about God’s promise of a Savior through David’s line in our First Reading: *“In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”* Jeremiah 33:15. Today, we know that our Savior was born from David’s line, a line of kings that was established forever through Christ the King of kings. *(If you offered Fall UIM SS or even if you did not, review how the line of David led to Christ).* It is seeing all that God has done through Christ to not just create life but save it that both causes us to share Christ and gives us so much to share about Christ to help lead others to Him for faith, forgiveness, and salvation. Then, as He strengthens us and all who believe to live

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy! **Leader:** NOW and every day!

VI. The Vignette to the Gospel reminds us Christ will come again, and our Gospel Reading cautions us to watch for signs that the kingdom of God is near. While no one knows when that time will come, we know it will come because God promises it will come and He has kept every promise. We can be sure that some time in the future, just as our Sermon Text says, hearts will *thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to You [the Lord] ... and, the wealth of the nations shall come to You [the Lord]*. An abundant sea of people who do not believe will see God's light. This will be a glorious time of conversion when happy and peaceful times will exist because faith in Christ exists. Believers will be radiant and will face every struggle with pure and holy joy. Transformed by God through the power of His Spirit, they will lead others to the Righteous Branch of Jesse’s Tree, Jesus. Faith will not be forced on people. Rather, people will be touched by it and drawn to Christ. Yes, there will be those who reject God's light, but others will see and desire the genuine hope and salvation only God can give. The worst of sinners sitting in darkness will see the Lord's light and return to Him. Then through the Righteous Branch of Jesse’s Tree, Jesus, we and all who believe will “in reverence, experience God’s holiness,” and as we live

Leader: In His righteousness and holiness,

Generations: Our hearts will swell with pure and holy joy.

Leader: NOW and forever! Amen.

Offering: Taken according to custom. To add a stewardship or any hymn, type the number in your bulletin.

Creed: Type in the page number from the hymnal for the Creed you will be using.

Communion Service: Nicene Creed (LSB back page, TLH pg. 22, LW pg. 166)

Non-Communion Service: Apostle’s Creed. (LSB back page, TLH pg.12, LW pg 167)

Prayers: You may use the following prayer petitions provided or your own prayers. The words to the prayer do not need to be printed in your bulletin. Do print the response if you choose to use it. Responses generate the participation of all generations. However, using responses some weeks and not other weeks can add variety and also meet both the needs of those who like responses and those who prefer not to say responses. If possible, pass out a printed copy of your prayers for those who cannot hear well or at all. This will help to include them and help them feel this worship is reaching out to them. Remind those sitting near them to help especially children respond and to point to responses for the hearing impaired. Conclude your prayers with the Lord’s Prayer unless it is part of your communion liturgy.

Prayer of the Church

Leader: Knowing how much we need the Lord to help us live in righteousness and holiness so that our hearts may swell with pure and holy joy, we pray for all people to see the Lord's light and be changed by Him. Each time you hear **"In reverence, help us experience Your Holiness, O Lord,"** please respond with **"Cause Your Light in us to draw others to You."**

Leader: Almighty God, Creator of every living thing, You have commanded us to be holy as You are holy, and it is because we cannot be holy without You that You have sent Your Son to forgive all our sins through His suffering, death, and resurrection. Continue to be with us and keep us holy through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Leader: **In reverence, help us experience Your Holiness, O Lord.**

Generations: **Cause Your Light in us to draw others to You.**

Leader: Holy Jesus, who came once to this earth as a tiny Babe to bring joy to the world, we bow in reverence before You, begging for Your forgiveness and standing in awe of the One God who has come to be with us even in all of our sins and unfaithfulness. Draw us closer to You each day on earth and fill us with pure and holy joy until You come again with all of the angels to take us to live with You in heaven forevermore.

Leader: **In reverence, help us experience Your Holiness, O Lord.**

Generations: **Cause Your Light in us to draw others to You.**

Leader: O sacred and holy God, filled with power and mercy to save us in heaven and not only help us through struggles but cause us to be strengthened by them on earth, hear us as we pray for the eternal and earthly needs of people You have given us to pray and care for. Please be with, strengthen, and protect all people in their times of need. Especially at this time, be with (), as well as all of those whom we hold dear and pray for silently in our minds and hearts. Comfort those who mourn, (especially). Sustain all of Your people with a full measure of Your peace and strength and pure and holy joy in their times of need.

Leader: **In reverence, help us experience Your Holiness, O Lord.**

Generations: **Cause Your Light in us to draw others to You.**

Leader: Triune God, send Your Spirit to live in us, to cleanse us and empower us to be holy and hold You and Your gift of life sacred. Through Your Spirit, sanctify and keep us strong in faith that is able and willing to share Christ and the pure and holy joy only He can give until He comes again.

Leader: **In reverence, help us experience Your Holiness, O Lord.**

Generations: **Cause Your Light in us to draw others to You.**

Leader: All these things we lay at Your throne, trusting that You hear and will answer...
[as we boldly say: **AMEN!**]

Or if you are not celebrating Holy Communion:

[as we join together in praying the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Our Father..."]

[Holy Communion may be celebrated according to custom.]

Note: You may choose a Communion Hymn or use the hymn below.

UIM Song: Encourage children and those with sight or any reading challenges to listen to the words of this song/hymn and those with hearing challenges to read the words and be blessed by the message.

"Righteous, Blameless, Help Us Stay"

Sung to the tune of "Savior of the Nations, Come" LSB 332/ TLH 95/ LW 13

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Note: This is the Opening Song for the UIM SS Lesson that complements this UIM Worship Service. Opening Songs introduce and clarify lessons. They do the same for UIM Worship services.

1. Righteous, blameless, help us stay, Through forgiveness every day,
Hold You and life sacred too Through all that we say and do.
2. Help us live a holy life Through the strength You give in Christ,
To bring more people to- You So they hold You sacred too.

Benediction: May God our Creator and Redeemer bless us as we leave this place. May His face shine upon us and fill us with His pure and holy joy. May He strengthen us in faith to live blameless in righteousness and holiness before Him all the days of our lives until Christ comes again.

All God's People say: Amen.

Closing Hymn of Anticipation: To include children, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase so they can listen for it and repeat it. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung so all can be blessed by the message.

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 340,341/ TLH 73 / LW 24

BEFORE WORSHIPERS LEAVE: If you are offering the UIM SS Lesson that complements this UIM Worship Service, invite the entire congregation to say or repeat after you the God's Word For Us Today passage from this lesson printed on the last page of their worship bulletin:

So that [the Lord] may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:13

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