

Advent Praise

Welcome & Opening Prayer - Revd Brenda Stewart

Hymn: Come thou Long-expected Jesus

Come thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious Kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Lighting of the Advent Candle
and Advent Collect** - Madge Barker

**Prayer of approach, longing and confession for the
Advent season** - Revd Peter Bowles

God, with us, as we enter this season of longing and waiting,
bear with us a little longer;
be patient with our impatience.

You have journeyed alongside us from the beginning of
time,
yet still we miss the signs of your presence.

When we are blinded by the brashness of this season:
Open our eyes to the glimpses of your glory.

When we want simple answers:
Open our minds to the hints of incarnation.

When we are deafened by our own shouting:
Open our ears to the whispers of your grace.

May we share with you in longing for restoration and
renewal, and may we be watchful for the light that breaks
through the darkness of our world.
In Christ's name. Amen.

God says 'Be patient, watch and wait, for the time is close at
hand.' Know that you are loved, forgiven and healed.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Advent Collect - Canon Trevor Shannon

Bible Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 - Sarah, Countess of Leicester

Hymn: Hark! a Herald Voice is Calling

Hark! a herald voice is calling;
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'
Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n,
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiv'n.

So when next he comes with glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then, as our defender,
on the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Rosie Savoury

Sonnet: 'Mark' by Malcolm Guite - Mary Able

Bible Reading: Mark 13:24 - end - Al Williams

Hymn: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.
Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gave we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Poem: 'Advent' by Rowan Williams - Susan Wagstaff

Statement of Faith - Madge Barker

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here,
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, o come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayers of Intercession - Canon Trevor Shannon

The Lord's Prayer

Advent Collect - Revd Peter Bowles

Hymn: The Advent of our King
The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant' form puts on,
to set his servants free.

Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heav'n to reign.

All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.

Blessing - Revd Brenda Stewart

*Thanks to all our readers and to our two organists:
Edna Stafford and Ellie Guénault*