

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

**15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**



**Words of Welcome**

*Lighting of the candle....*

**OPENING RESPONSES**

Let us lift up our eyes to the Lord  
enthroned in the heavens!

**We come ready to worship,  
to listen anew to the Word of the Lord.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

**Fill us, as we gather, with your spirit of justice.**

Let your freedom reign, O Lord,  
guiding us and leading us to new life.

**We are here to worship God,  
let us lift our hearts in praise.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

We gather here, at the end of one week  
and the beginning of another.

O Lord of decades and days,  
centuries and seconds,

we stop now, for this moment,

and turn together to you –

who holds all time in your hand.

Make us ready to receive you,  
as we gather here today.

Amen.

**HYMN/ SONG: Immortal Invisible**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

**CONFESSION**

*A moment of quiet reflection...*

**Almighty God,**

**You have shown us the ways of justice**

**And nurtured us with love.**

**Even so, we have not lived according to your will.**

**When we are oppressed or unjustly accuse,**

**We cling to fear and fail to trust in your deliverance.**

**When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of  
others,**

**We hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws.**

**Have mercy on us, lord,**

**For we are weak and prone to disobedience.**

**Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness,**

**That we might turn to you again,**

**Walk in the light**

**And live in equity and peace;**

**Through Jesus Christ we pray.**

**Amen**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Children of light,  
Because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ,  
We need not fear,  
For he lived for us, he died for us,  
He was raised for us and prays for us.  
Believe the promise of your baptism:  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Amen

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of righteousness,  
You overcome those who abuse their power  
And lift up those who suffer.  
Even now when evil seems to hold sway,  
We know that you will have the last word.  
Keep us faithful as we wait and watch  
for your coming realm,  
When you will welcome all your children  
Into your kingdom of justice, peace and love.  
Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**For the word of God in Jesus,  
For God's wisdom all around us,  
For God's word and wisdom in us  
Thanks be to God.**

## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **Psalms 90:1-12**

Lord, you have been our help,  
generation after generation.  
Before the mountains were born,  
before you birthed the earth and the inhabited  
world—  
from forever in the past  
to forever in the future, you are God.  
You return people to dust,  
saying, "Go back, humans,"  
because in your perspective a thousand years

are like yesterday past,  
like a short period during the night watch.  
You sweep humans away like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning.  
True, in the morning it thrives, renewed,  
but come evening it withers, all dried up.  
Yes, we are wasting away because of your wrath;  
we are paralyzed with fear on account of your rage.  
You put our sins right in front of you,  
set our hidden faults in the light from your face.  
Yes, all our days slip away because of your fury;  
we finish up our years with a whimper.  
We live at best to be seventy years old,  
maybe eighty, if we're strong.  
But their duration brings hard work and trouble  
because they go by so quickly.  
And then we fly off.  
Who can comprehend the power of your anger?  
The honor that is due you corresponds to your wrath.  
Teach us to number our days  
so we can have a wise heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30**

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

"After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you O Christ**

## REFLECTION

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

With the whole church

**We affirm that we are made in God’s image,  
Befriended by Christ,  
Empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,  
**We affirm God’s goodness  
At the heart of humanity,  
Planted more deeply that all that is wrong.**

With all creation,  
**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,  
The unfolding purposes of God,  
Forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

## Anthem: Walk humbly with your God

He has shown you what is good:  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with your  
God.

Amen.

(Micah 6-8)

## PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

*(This week our Intercessions are written by Marilyn  
Graham)*

### Response:

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## A MODERN VERSION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER

**God in heaven,  
Your name is to be honoured.  
May your new community of hope  
Be realised on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the essentials of life.  
Release us from our wrongdoing  
As we also release those who wrong us.  
Do not test us beyond our enduring;  
Save us from all that is evil.  
For you embrace justice, love and peace,  
Now and to the end of time,  
Amen**

## PEACE

Grace and peace to you, from him who is, and who was,  
and who is to come;

The peace of the Lord be always with you...

**And also with you.**

*We take a moment to write a peace greeting to one another whilst listening to the Iona chant: Peace be with you....*

### **A BLESSING**

May God whose coming we eagerly await,  
Keep you fervent in faith,  
Steadfast in hope,  
And constant in love.  
And the Blessing of the Creator, the Redeemer and the  
Sustainer, be with you now and forevermore.  
Amen

### **SENDING RESPONSES**

This is the day that God has made;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

We will not offer to God

**Offerings that cost us nothing.**

Go in peace to love and to serve;

**We will seek peace and pursue it.**

In the name of the Trinity of love,

**God in community, holy and one.**

### **A PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK.**

God our Challenger and disturber,  
Help us to confront  
all that makes for death and despair  
in our lives, our communities, our world.  
May we never lose sight  
Of the possibility of transformation  
And be continually surprised by people  
who believe in one another.  
Amen

### **QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.**

How dangerous is it to be a follower of Jesus?  
Who are your role models for faith?  
Who do you look to as the folk who inspire you and  
influence the decisions you make?

### **Acknowledgements**

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crafting this service

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- Spill the Beans
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- Roots for Worship.