

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET

Advent 1

29th November 2020



Words of Welcome

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord by your presence,
light up the past that we might learn from it with
thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray,
May we be always ready to encounter the Lord
Who is already and always with us.
Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle for all God's people,
Struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.
God, as we wait for your promise,

Give light, give hope.

HYMN/ SONG: O come, O come Emmanuel

- 1 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.
- 2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain
- 3 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Refrain
- 5 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.
Refrain

CONFESSION

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away,
Our sins dry us up;
Faded and brittle, we are carried off
By the wrongs we have done.
Yet God loves us still
And is able to restore and renew us
With the water of life.

*We take a moment of quiet reflection as we bring to
mind our failures and our frailty...*

God-with-us,
Even in Advent,
We confess that you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt and fear,
We do not try to draw closer to you;
In our troubles, we have forgotten that we have been
made and are treasured by God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

In our troubles, we have not treasured other people and
God's world.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

In our troubles, we have forgotten to be ready for God's
coming.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus,
Strengthen us to the end
So that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.
Thanks be to God, who is faithful
And has called us into the fellowship of the Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God forgive you,
Christ renew you
And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
Still shakes the foundations of our world:
May we so wait for your coming
With eagerness and hope
That we embrace without terror
The labour pangs of the new age,
Through Jesus Christ,
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.**

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

If only you would tear open the heavens and come
down! Mountains would quake before you like fire
igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would
make your name known to your enemies, the nations
would tremble in your presence.
When you accomplished wonders beyond all our
expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked
before you.

From ancient times,
no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any god but you
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him![c]

You look after those who gladly do right;
they will praise you for your ways.

But you were angry when we sinned;
you hid yourself when we did wrong.
We have all become like the unclean;
all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag.

All of us wither like a leaf;
our sins, like the wind, carry us away.

No one calls on your name;
no one bothers to hold on to you,
for you have hidden yourself from us,
and have handed us over to our sin.

But now, Lord, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.

Don't rage so fiercely, Lord;
don't hold our sins against us forever,
but gaze now on your people, all of us:

The Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

Here the gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you O Lord.

In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendour. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. 36 Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

RESPONSE: A Litany of Waiting.

God, we come to you in our waiting

We wait with our fears,
Our anxieties and frustrations,
Our pains and regrets, our shame and confusion.
God, help us to wait in peace.

Pause

We wait with impatience:
For our own version of our preferred future,
Not prepared to make room,
To leaving the space for your coming,
For your future.

God, help us to wait with faith.

Pause

We wait in excitement:
We wait in wonder!
We know the story;
A story with power, humility and simplicity,
A story that changes the world.

God, help us to find the joy.

Pause

We wait in thanksgiving,
We wait with wonder in our hearts.
We marvel at the generosity of your gift.
The gift of your very self.

God, help us to receive your love.

Amen

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

(This week our Intercessions are written by Joan Johnston)

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

In the tender mercy of our God,
The dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
To give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
And to guide your feet into the way of peace.

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 we are singing our final hymn:*

HYMN: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

- 1 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.**
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation,
 joy of every longing heart.**
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
 born a child and yet a king,
 born to reign in us for ever,
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
 rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all-sufficient merit
 raise us to thy glorious throne.**

A BLESSING

May the Lord find you alert to his coming,

Open to his presence,
Aware of his 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.

We all need patience now. But not a passive sort of
patience. We need to be active, sifting the non-essential
from the essential. We need to be searching our hearts
to distinguish real injustice from the cruel results of a
novel virus, that has no mind, no priorities, no sense of
fair or unfair. We need generosity towards those we
perceive to have suffered little, for the sheltered retired
folk and the carefree, young as they are.

We need compassion on those who have suffered
greatly, and are still suffering, especially those who may
have been forgotten as we rightly think first of the
front-line staff in the NHS. There is probably no walk of
life at present that doesn't have its special burdens to
bear. We need understanding too for all those who now
face the challenge of rolling out huge vaccination
programmes here and across the world, for the
demands that will be made on their expertise, their
time, their sheer physical stamina.

Grant us that special kind of watchful patience Lord.
Remind us that in anger we lose sight of the claims of
compassion, of justice, even of truth. So keep us in your
way, alert to the signs of your presence, forgiving of the
failures of others, and ready to do your will. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.

Take a moment this week to think of a change for the better that has happened in the pandemic, and give thanks for it.

Then think of a change you regret and prayerfully consider how the situation could be improved.

Acknowledgements

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- Wild Goose Iona Abbey Worship Book.
- Common Worship Living Word
- Spill the Beans
- Roots for Worship.