

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining.



2nd Before Advent - 15/11/20 Bible Sunday

The Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
And the blessing...
Amen.

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This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Call to Worship (Psalm 119:9-16)

9 How shall young people cleanse their way to keep
themselves according to your word?

**10 With my whole heart I have sought you;
O let me not go astray from your commandments.**

11 Your words have I hidden within my heart, that I
should not sin against you.

**12 Blessed are you, O Lord; O teach me your
statutes.**

13 With my lips have I been telling of all the judgements
of your mouth.

**14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your
testimonies than in all manner of riches.**

15 I will meditate on your commandments and contem-
plate your ways.

**16 My delight shall be in your statutes and I will not
forget your word.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All is
open and laid bare before the eyes
of him to whom we give account.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep silence to recall our need for God's forgiveness.

Your word convicts us:
all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Your word commands us:
repent, and believe the Good News.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your word assures us:
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Family Bible Story

The Story and The Song from the Jesus Storybook Bible
by Sally Lloyd-Jones

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.**

**Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Proclamation to the World

**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**The Word of life, which was from the beginning,
we proclaim to you.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn **WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM**
Good news for all throughout the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved, His life He gave.

Song: **JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW**
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
Let his little child come in.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.

The Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them
that, through patience,
and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings

Read by Claire Wenham

Nehemiah 8:1- 12

After each reading we use these words:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon by David Wenham

A moment to reflect

Hymn: **WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

The Intercessions led by Jessica Turner