



Advent Sunday: Morning Worship - 29/11/20

Welcome and call to worship

For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lighting of first Advent candle

We light our first Advent candle to remind us of Abraham, our father in faith, and the patriarchs of old who followed him in search of the Promised Land.

(The first candle is lit.)

Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

Prayer

God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, you are God of the whole universe and we can call you 'Father'. You have revealed their hope of the Messiah to us in Jesus Christ: Son of God, son of David and son of Mary. Help us to prepare ourselves to celebrate his birth and to follow him faithfully every day of our lives until we reach our home in heaven. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the hope for the world. **Amen.**

Hymn: **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 every nation
Joy of every longing heart**

**Born thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever
Now thy gracious kingdom bring**

**By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine own sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne**

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

**Father eternal,
giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,**

***Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
For the King of kings!
(For the King of kings!)
Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
And let his kingdom in!***

**He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.**

**And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.**

**We call you now to worship him
As Lord of all.
To have no other gods before him:
Their thrones must fall!**

The Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing ...

The Intercessions

Prayers of Intercession are followed by the Lord's Prayer.

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: **Make way, make way, for Christ the King
In splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him
Into your lives.**

**through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Readings and Sermon

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 21.25-36

After the readings we use these words:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon - Helen Azer

A time of reflection as we listen to the choir singing an Advent anthem 'People look East'.

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate,
was crucified,
died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day
he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**