

**Advent Sunday Service
3rd December 2023**



Welcome

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Romans 13.12

Prayer

All God of Advent, thank you for the good things about waiting. And thank you for teaching us through your Son, Jesus, that good things are always worth waiting for. 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 all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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Follow the Star, Join the Song Introduction

Hymn King of kings and Lord of lords,
Glory hallelujah;
King of kings and Lord of lords,
Glory hallelujah;
Jesus, Prince of Peace,
Glory hallelujah.
Jesus Prince of Peace
Glory hallelujah

CCLI Song # 23952 Naomi Batya | Sophie Conty © 1980 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing CCLI licence 2097

Advent Candle

All Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a King: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today. Amen

Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

1st Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus for in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name!*

*In works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again.
That all may see,
and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.*

Restore, O Lord in all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name,
and in Your anger Lord remember mercy,
O living God
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord, where we are hard and cold
in Your refiner's fire; come purify the gold:
though suffering comes, and evil crouches near
Still our living God

Is reigning He is reigning here.

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2nd Bible Reading

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, following that distress, “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Address

Hymn **We have sung our songs of vict'ry**

We have prayed to You for rain
We have cried for Your compassion
To renew the land again
Now we're standing in Your presence
More hungry than before
Now we're on Your steps of mercy
And we're knocking at Your door

*How long before You drench the barren land
How long before we see Your righteous hand
How long before Your name is lifted high
How long before the weeping turns
To songs of joy*

Lord we know Your heart is broken
By the evil that You see
And You've stayed Your hand of judgement
For You plan to set men free
But the land is still in darkness
And we've fled from what is right

We have failed the silent children
Who will never see the light

But I know a day is coming
When the deaf will hear His voice
When the blind will see their Saviour
And the lame will leap for joy
When the widow finds a husband
Who will always love His bride
And the orphan finds a Father
Who will never leave her side

*How long before Your glory lights the skies
How long before Your radiance lifts our eyes
How long before Your fragrance fills the air
How long before the earth resounds
With songs of joy x 2*

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Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray;

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.

Notices and Birthdays

Hymn 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 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:

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:

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:

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:

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Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from
before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. Amen

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