

SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> November

@ 10am

# Advent

a Celtic Style Service celebrating

# Hope



- *An accessible service for all ages*
- *Lighting of first Advent candle*
- *Junior & Youth choirs taking part*
- *Under 5s activity table*
- *Refreshments afterwards in the hall*

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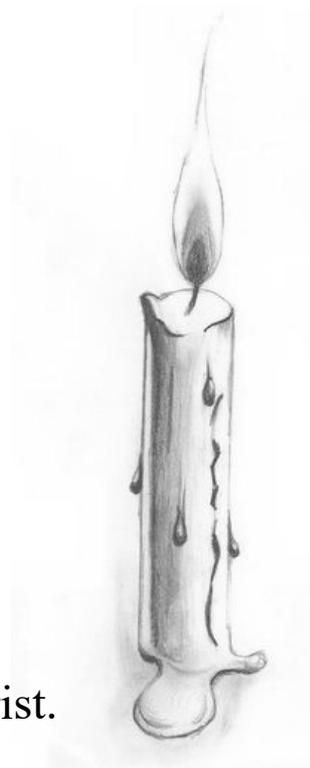
Welcome to this Advent Hope Service. Today is Advent Sunday – the first Sunday in our Church Year. The word ‘Advent’ means coming or appearance or arrival. So, this Sunday and the rest of the Advent season is all related to the coming or appearance or arrival of Christ – Jesus the Son of God.

Our Advent Ring, made of a circle, reminds us of the unending love of God. We light the first candle this morning.

*After the candle is lit...*

We light this first candle which reminds us of God’s people, especially the Old Testament ancestors of Jesus, waiting for the time when the Lord would reveal Himself to them.

**All**      **We celebrate**  
**Advent - a time of waiting**  
**In preparation and**  
**Thoughtfulness,**  
**In anticipation and the hope of**  
**New Life through**  
**God’s Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**



Our first hymn refers to different titles for Christ found in the Old Testament – a time when they were looking forward to the coming or advent of Christ - look out for different titles the first line of each verse

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**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**2 O come, thou Rod\* of Jesse, free** (\* or descendant)  
**thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [Refrain]**

**3 O come, thou Dayspring\*, come and cheer,** (\*see Lk1:78)  
**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,** (\*see Rev 3:9)  
**and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

**Refrain:**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**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]**

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The Advent God is the one who 'came down to earth from heaven'. He is 'God and Lord of all'. He came down to share our humanity; to share our pains, our trials, our joys. The Advent God knows each of us by name and longs to meet each one of us when he comes.

Isaiah encourages us to: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. (*Is 55:6*)

*A time for saying sorry:*

Son of Mary  
**Have mercy on us**  
Carpenter of Nazareth  
**Have mercy on us**  
Healer of the sick  
**Have mercy on us**  
Bringer of good news  
**Have mercy on us**  
Saviour of the poor  
**Have mercy on us**  
Disturber of the mighty  
**Have mercy on us**



Lord  
have  
mercy  
on us

You, who move towards Jerusalem;  
facing our darkness, our death,

**Have mercy on us**

You, who call us sister, brother, mother, friend:  
Your body, here

**Have mercy on us**

Holy God, we bring our ourselves, all that we are, all that we  
long to be, our weakness, our failures, our sinfulness, our  
brokenness.

*We hear God's words of forgiveness*

May the God of love and power  
forgive and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

*A special prayer for Advent Sunday*

**Almighty 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**

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading: Luke 21:25-36

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

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**Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see.**

***Refrain: Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church gathered today.***



**Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. [Refrain]**

**Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us Your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed. [Refrain]**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us Your building, sheltering others  
Walls made of living stone. [Refrain]**

**Many the gift, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making Your kingdom come.**

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in Your church gathered today.*

[© Words & music: Bernadette Farrell]

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REFLECTION

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**Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with love and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with love and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!***

*[© Words & music by Graham Kendrick]*

*Intercessions - A Circle Prayer*

Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the centre.

We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends - for their health, needs, joys and fears.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week - for their love and concern, for their wellbeing.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

**Hear the prayers of our hearts**



As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less - for a blessing this Advent-time

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people - for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper

Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love

**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

**Amen**

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

**All 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**

*Junior & Youth Choir Anthem:  
Come Lord Jesus by Oliver Tarney*

Come Lord Jesus our light to be  
Come Lord Jesus set your people free  
Come now with wisdom from above  
And fill our hearts with peace and love  
Come Lord Jesus make all things new  
Come and bring us life and light in you  
A light no darkness can destroy  
Bring us your justice Lord and everlasting joy.

*Notices*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## *Advent Hope*

Advent is about looking forward with hope: looking forward in the short term to the day we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ – the day we welcome into our world, Emmanuel, God with us.

But it is also about looking forward to the second coming of Christ, when God's kingdom will be established on earth, when death will be no more, where there will be no more pain or crying or mourning, when these things will have passed away.

These two aspects are considered in our final hymn.

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**1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**4. Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for thine own  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

*Alleluia!*

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Our Lord says, I am coming soon.

**All Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

**All Amen.**

Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honour everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**All Thanks be to God.**