

Advent Sunday

Celtic Worship

Sunday 28th November 2021

The service will begin with the lights turned down and a short word of welcome will be given before we begin.

Call to worship

“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

(Luke 1:31-33)

New light dawning where there has been darkness.

All **The advent of the Lord is near.**

New hope reigning where there has been death and despair.

All **The advent of the Lord is near.**

New light, new hope, new life for all creation.

All **The advent of the Lord is near.**

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.

The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing – not one thing! –
came into being without him.

What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

(John 1.1-5)

*The Easter candle is lit along with candles around the altar.
We have a time of shared silence.*

Meditation – The candle song

Like a candle flame,
Flick'ring small
In our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

*God is with us alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia*

Stars and angels sing,
Yet the earth
Sleeps in shadows;
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?

*God is with us alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia*

Yet His light shall shine
From our lives,
Spirit blazing,
As we touch the flame
Of His holy fire.

*God is with us alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia*

The Season of Waiting

This is a season of preparation,
We prepare for Christ who broke the barriers between us and God,
each other and God's creation,

All We wait with repentant hearts to prepare the way of the Lord.

This is a season of watchfulness,
We watch for the One who heard our cries
and shared the suffering of our world,

**All We wait in anticipation for God's light to penetrate
the darkness and shine within us,**

This is a season of promise,
We wait for the promised coming of Emmanuel, God with us,
God for us, God in us.

**All We wait in hope for our Redeemer to bring God's love
into our broken world,**

This is a season of reflection,
We expect to be transformed so that we can serve in God's kingdom
as bearers of light.

**All We wait expectantly for God's Saviour to come
and dwell in our midst,**

This is a season of fulfilment,
We await the promise of God's kingdom: wholeness, reconciliation
and plenty for all.

**All We wait for God's covenant to be fulfilled,
for God's kingdom to come in its fullness,**

This is a season of joyful anticipation,
We anticipate the day when God's glory
will be revealed to all people together.

**All We wait expectantly attentive
to all the signs of Christ's coming.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The first week of Advent is all about hope.
Think about hope as you hear from the book of Lamentations:
"But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in the Lord."

One purple candle is lit.

Gracious God, As the Advent season begins, we cry out to you.
We come to you looking for hope.
When everything else we rely on fails us, our only hope is in you.
When we do not understand what has happened, we hope in you.

We can hope for better days because we trust you.
We know you and we know you are here with us
no matter what we are facing.
Some of us see only darkness this time of year.
Some of us find life overwhelming.
Some of us are filled with Advent joy.
Wherever we find ourselves today,
Loving God, remind us that our hope is in you.
Be with us on this journey.

All **We light a candle for hope.**
May it light the way.

Song – Come, thou long expected Jesus

All **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.

Bible Reading – Jeremiah 33.14-16

“Look, the days are coming” –
this is the LORD’s declaration –
“when I will fulfill the good promise
that I have spoken
concerning the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
In those days and at that time
I will cause a Righteous Branch

to sprout up for David,
and he will administer justice
and righteousness in the land.
In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely,
and this is what she will be named:
The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

Advent Ribbon Reflection

Concluding our reflection together we pray:

All Lord, during advent help us to slow down to your rhythm,
to prepare for the anniversary of your arrival
quietly and expectantly.
Give us a sense of hope for our lives and our world,
a sense of peace that you hold each of us in your hands,
a sense of just how much you love us
and a sense of joy at the plans you have for us.

Using this purple ribbon as a reminder,
help us to make a special effort to reflect your hope, peace,
love and joy to those around us throughout Advent.
Amen.

Song – Mary's Child

All Mary's Child
Born in the night,
Mary's Child
A long way from your home:
coming in need
Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world,
Mary's Child,
Dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life,
Mary's Child
You tell us God is good;
Prove it is true,
Mary's Child
Go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
Walk in the streets again.

Time of Prayer – *Come among us*

Into our troubles and weaknesses,
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the war torn and the refugee,
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the homeless and the unemployed,
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the sick and the disabled,
Into those with COVID and cancer and depression, Come, Lord
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the poor and the starving,
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the lives of loved ones,
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into our joys and celebrations,
Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord
All **Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Time of silent reflection.

Lord we long for your coming.

Hasten the day when those who seek you in every nation
will sit at your table.

Hasten the day when suffering, pain, sickness, oppression and death
will be overcome forever.

Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as a multicultural family
and live in peace, harmony, joy and love together in your kingdom.

All **Calm us to wait for the gift of Christ;**
Cleanse us to prepare the way for Christ;
Teach us to contemplate the wonder of Christ;
Touch us to know the presence of Christ;
Anoint us to bear the life of Christ.
Amen.

Song – Carol of God's Choice

All **No one would choose, to start a clan,**
a childless couple late in years,
content to live in peace and quiet,
past thought of travelling or careers;
till Abr'am learned whom God was after
and Sarah's womb was filled with laughter.

No one would choose, to free a tribe,
a fugitive in shepherd dress,
embarrassed by his stuttering tongue,
aware his past lay in a mess;
till Moses learned God's startling news
that he would help to free the Jews.

No one would choose, to lead a race,
a teenage boy who loved to sing,
unsuited to a sword or shield,
protected only by a sling;
till David helped God win the day
and on the ground Goliath lay.

**No one would choose, to save the world,
a child of parents newly wed,
whom common folk received with joy
and royal courts perceived with dread;
till God, in Jesus' infant voice,
confirmed the strangeness of his choice.**

**So let us join to bless this babe,
the high, the humble and the low,
the ones who think they've found their faith
and those unsure of what they know.
In wonder, welcome what God does
in being born for each of us.**

Looking forward

We look forward –
to seeing a new star appear in the sky,
prompting those far off to draw near to you.

All: Lord Jesus, draw us to you.

We look forward –
to the familiar stable scenes, their mangers standing empty,
waiting to receive you.

All: Lord Jesus, come to us anew.

We look forward –
to hearing again the angels singing
"Glory to God and Peace to all the earth".

All: Lord Jesus, let us take up their song.

We look forward –
to seeing shepherds and kings alike,
poor and humble, noble and wealthy,
all bowing before you.

All: Lord Jesus, unite us in worship.

We look forward –
to remembering a humble girl, with an ordinary background,
chosen to bring your hope into the world.

All: Lord Jesus, bring new hope through us.

We look forward –
to a child, wrapped in linen, lying in a manger, weak and helpless,
small and completely reliant on others.

All: Lord Jesus, teach us to depend on you.

We look forward –
to seeing, hearing and knowing afresh how you –
infinite and incomprehensible God –
freely entered your creation, becoming humble and tangible
so that we might freely enter your presence.
Lord Jesus, we look, we wonder and we give you thanks.

All: Amen.

Final Blessing

The patience of Advent waiting to you.
The light of the Christmas star to you.
The warmth of a home and hearth to you.
The cheer and good will of friends to you.
The hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you.
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.
And the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us. May you have a peaceful Advent.

*Please visit our website or read the Church Newsletter for information on all our
Advent and Christmas goings on.*

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