

WORSHIP - ADVENT SUNDAY - 28 NOVEMBER 2021

Today we have services in both churches at 10 am, and the Advent Procession at St Matthew's at 6 pm.
Clive is leading the Zoom service, and preaching.

In our churches we will light the first of the Advent Candles, and use this prayer. You may like to light a candle.

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready
for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

The Matin Responary - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwYJm_SkxXo

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Tell us: art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

*Words from the First Responary of Advent Sunday
Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594
Sung by the choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament lesson - Jeremiah 33.14-16 - *this is printed on the blue noticessheet*

Hymn - Come, thou long-expected Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEEed0uWnDGs>

Gospel - Luke 21.25-36

Address - *a sermon from Clive is on the website*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession - *Clive has based them around the hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel!"*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son*

We pray for all those who are exiled, for refugees, for those forced from their homes by war, famine or extreme want. We pray for those who feel cut off from love, for the lonely and isolated, for the bereaved, for those in despair.

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

*O come, thou Branch of Jesse! Draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.*

We pray for all those in danger, danger from violence, danger from injustice, danger from sickness.

We pray for those at the point of death.

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

*O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.*

We pray for all those whose lives lack opportunity, for those who lack access to education, for those who live lives in the shadows and half-light, and for those whose lives are lived in fear and anxiety.

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

*O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.*

We pray for those at the point of death, that they may know the comfort of God's embrace as he draws them closer to himself.

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

*O come, O come Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.*

We pray for a brighter future for our world, for inspiration for our leaders and ourselves that we might build a world of harmony, peace and flourishing, founded on mutual respect and a profound care for the environment.

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

We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn - Hills of the North, rejoice - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufsfurSpPmM>

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,
scatter the darkness from before our path,
and make us 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 us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

**Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted and weighed down by the things of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of our Saviour. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final music - Toccatta on Veni Emmanuel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ot_qkV-cxQ

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