

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

5 December 2021

## *The Gathering*

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
**Let us recognize his presence with us.**

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship him together.**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.

## *The Confession*

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours 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.

## *The Absolution*

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

*Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.  
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.*

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true,  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets  
but in our days you speak through your Son  
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.  
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light  
that we may be found ready and watching  
when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
for you are our light and our salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
the prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in hearts at Christmastide  
and show the world God's love.**

## ***The Collect***

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
**Amen**

## ***Readings***

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi [3.1-4]**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians [1.3-11]**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

***Hymn***

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

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

*Listen to a recording:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q\\_Q-4&ab\\_channel=MeganSmith](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4&ab_channel=MeganSmith)

### ***Gospel Reading***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Luke 3.1-6]

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of

Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon by Fr Simon Cuff*

*Prayers of Intercession*

*The following or another response may be used*

Lord, in your silence  
**hear our prayer.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour has 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.

## ***Thanksgiving***

Let us give thanks and praise for all God's gifts

*Silence is kept*

For birth and life and strength of body,  
for safety and shelter and food,  
we give you thanks:  
we praise your holy name.



For sight and hearing and the beauty of nature,  
for words and music and the power of thought,  
we give you thanks:  
**we praise your holy name.**

For work and leisure and the joy of achieving,  
for conscience and will and depth of feeling,  
we give you thanks:  
**we praise your holy name.**

For grace and truth in Jesus Christ,  
for the gifts of the Spirit and the hope of heaven,  
we give you thanks:  
**we praise your holy name.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### ***The Peace***

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

## ***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, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, be with us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

## ***Notices***

## ***Dismissal***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**