

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

November 29th 2020

1st Sunday in Advent

Prelude: Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying, J.S. Bach

Call to Worship and Approach to God

Leader: among the poor, among the proud,
among the persecuted, among the privileged.,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: with a gentle touch, with an angry word,
with fiery judgement, with burning love,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: that the Kingdom might come, that the world might believe,
that the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: Within us, without us, behind us, before us,

**All: in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new.**

1 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.*

3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell they people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

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

2 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

4 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:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

5 O come, thou Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

❖ Prayers of approach (ending with the Lord's prayer)

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Word of God

❖ Lighting of 1st Advent candle and Children's address

We light the first candle of Advent,
longing for you, God most High,
to tear open the heavens and come down,
and the nations to tremble before you.

**God, you are our potter,
and we are the clay
and all of us are your handiwork.**

❖ Holy Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Music: *Salvation Is Nearer*, Virgil T. Ford

❖ Sermon

Followed by pause for reflection

Response to God's Word

1. He came down that we might have love (x 3)
Hallelujah for evermore.
(Cantor: 'Why did he come?')
2. He came down that we might have peace (x 3)
Hallelujah for evermore.
3. He came down that we might have joy (X 3)...
4. He came down that we might have life (X 3)...

❖ Prayers of Intercession

❖ Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, teach us to live in hope,
anticipating the renewal of all things
when Christ comes again.

**with gratitude we offer you
the praise of our lips;
and the service of our lives;
to the glory of your name, Amen.**

1. Wake, awake, for night is flying;
the watchmen on the heights are crying:
'Awake, Jerusalem, at last!'
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices;
come forth, ye virgins, night is past;
the Bridegroom comes; awake,
your lamps with gladness take,
Alleluia!
And for his marriage feast prepare,
for you must go to meet him there.
2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;
for the Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious;
her Star is risen, her Light is come!
Now come, O blessèd One,
God's own beloved Son,
Alleluia!
We follow to the festal hall
to sup with you the Lord of all.
3. Now let all the heavens adore thee,
and saints and angels sing before thee,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone;
of one pearl each shining portal,
where we are with the choir immortal
of angels round thy dazzling throne;
nor eye hath seen, nor ear
hath yet attained to hear
what there is ours;
but we rejoice and sing to thee
our hymn of joy eternally.

❖ Sending out with blessing *(followed by sung Amen)*

Postlude: *From Heaven Above I Come*, J.S. Bach

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A very warm WELCOME to all!

Holy Scripture is read this morning by Andreas Decker; prayers of intercession are led by Gillian Walker.

This week's activities:

- **Sunday, 21.00 hrs:** Short evening prayers, **Compline:** *join at <https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09>*
- **Monday, 14.00-16.00 hrs: Knitting** Christmas angels at the church. *Contact gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com*
- **Tuesday, 08.45 hrs: Psalm Reciting** (this week – Psalms 18 - 24). Please note this is not currently being held at the church, but you are welcome to recite these psalms from home either at 8.45 on Tuesday morning or some other time.
- **Wednesday, 19.30 hrs: Zoom Bible Study.** We will meet each week during Advent up to and including December 16th. Join us on: <https://zoom.us/j/92316847530?pwd=TjdObHBvcnVTRWM4bWprS2QrenBnQT09> .
- **Thursday, 21.00 hrs:** Short evening prayers, **Compline:** *join at <https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09>*
- **Prayer:** anyone in special need of prayer for themselves or for someone else, please contact Margaret Richards on margaretanne_richards@hotmail.com .

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Don't forget to connect with the church online for all the latest news and information:



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