

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

December 13th 2020

Prelude: Sheep May Safely Graze, J.S. Bach

Call to Worship and Approach to God

When God takes us home from our exile
we shall wake from this nightmare and live again.

**Those who sow in tears
will reap with shouts of joy!**

- ❖ 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to relieve,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3. He comes the broken hearts to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4. The sacred year has now revolved,
accepted of the Lord,
when heaven's high promise is fulfilled,
and Israel is restored.
- 5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and Heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

❖ **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

❖ **Children's address & lighting of Advent candles**

We light the first candle of Advent
with a plea for God to come down;
we light the second candle of Advent
as we hear words of comfort,
and the command to prepare
for God's coming.

**Our third candle announces that
the Spirit of the Lord is upon him
who God has anointed to bring
good news to the poor,
liberty for the captives,
recovery of sight to the blind;
and to let the broken victims go free.**

❖ **Holy Scripture:** Isaiah 64:1-4,8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

❖ **Music:** *A Dove Flew Down from Heaven*, Arr. Hermann Schröder

❖ **Sermon**

Followed by pause for reflection

Response to God's Word

- ❖ 1. 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.
- 2 Israel's Strength and Consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear Desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart
- 3. Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

❖ Prayers of Intercession

❖ Prayer of dedication

Living God,
we return these gifts to you
with grateful hearts;

**Use us and our offerings
to bring joy to the world,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning. Amen**

- ❖ 1. The voice of God goes out through all the world:
his glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries from star to star:
With pow'r, with justice, he will walk his way.
- 2. The Lord has said: "Receive my messenger,
My promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
A lamp to ev'ry nation, light from light:
With pow'r, with justice, he will walk his the way.
- 3. Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
He comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
To show the face of justice to the poor:
With pow'r, with justice, he will walk his way.
- 4. His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
The lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
And pris'ners laugh in light and liberty:
With pow'r, with justice, he will walk his way.

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

Postlude: Let Us All Be Joyful, Healey Willan

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*Holy Scripture this morning is read by Judi Haynes-Smart;
prayers of intercession are led by Baafi Owusu Sekyere.*

A very warm WELCOME to all!

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 10 -17). 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, 21.00 hrs: Zoom Bible Study**, Continuing our series on Jesus' parables. *<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

Pastor Lance is planning soon to run again his **'Walk Through the Bible'**, a four session course for those considering Church Membership, baptism, confirmation, or who just want a refresher course in the Christian faith or a better understanding of the Bible. Contact him (see below) if you are interested.

Church Contacts (See profiles of our elders in the church entrance)

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



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Our congregation relies on support through the gifts of time, talent and finance. We aim to be financially self-supporting and generous.

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