

St Mary's Ecclesfield.
Following Jesus, Celebrating Life, Welcoming All.
Sunday 28th November

Advent Carols Sunday 28-11-2021

The Light of Hope

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn: NEH 11. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

From the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th-13th century) trans. Mason Neale (1818-1866)

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.*

2. O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

4. O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

5. 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.

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 Jesus christ our Lord. Amen.

The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

O come, O come Emmanuel.

Come Lord Jesus.

The first candle is lit.

We dare to light a light of hope,
despite the darkness of our world.

In the face of cruelty and suffering,
of oppression and inequality,
we dare to hope!

In a world that sometimes seems hopeless,
we dare to hope!
With the faithful men and women of old,
we dare to hope!
We light a candle in the darkness,
we dare to hope!
O come, O come Emmanuel.
Come Lord Jesus.

Confession:
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.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 40. 1 – 11.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[b]
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn: NEH 7. Hills of the north, rejoice,

Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865) adapted

1. Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.
2. Isles of the southern seas
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.
3. Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.
4. Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.
5. Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the longing earth be blest.

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and

Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Hymn: NEH 10. Long ago, prophets knew

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd

1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!*

Reading: Romans 13:11-end.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hymn: NEH 3. Come, thou long expected Jesus,

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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 ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry 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.

Reading: 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.”

Hymn: NEH 6. Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) based on Luke 4:18-19

1. Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes, the pris'ners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Reading: Luke 21:25-36.

The Coming of the Son of Man

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

Exhortation to Watch

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

Choir Solo:

Hymns Old & New 620. The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), based on Birjina gaztettobat zegoen

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden, Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
2. 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be.
All generations laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers
foretold,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy
name.'
Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born

in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
and Christian folk throughout the work will

ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Sermon.

Hymn: NEH 186 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 1:46-55 © 1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith From Enlarged Songs of Praise'. Used by permission.

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the
Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit
voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his
Name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm
has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his
might!

Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to
flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the
Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha: **Amen.**
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for ...

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.
Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with [N and] all
your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your
coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with
the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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: NEH 9. Lo He comes with clouds descending.

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
all who hate him must, confounded,
hear the trump proclaim the day:
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment, come away!

4 Now Redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear!
All his saints, by man rejected,
now shall meet him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

5 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly;
alleluia! come, Lord, come.

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 today and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.