**WORSHIP for ADVENT SUNDAY 28th November 2021**

*Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church’s year.*

*The main themes of Advent are expectation and preparation.*

*During Advent we prepare to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation and we also look ahead to his final advent when he returns as judge.*

 God in Christ has revealed his glory.

 **Come let us worship.**

 From the rising of the sun to its setting
 **The Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

 **O praise the name of the Lord!**

###### *A candle may be lit and silence is kept.*

**Opening Prayer**

O God of Hope, send your light into our hearts,

and help us to be ready for the day and hour of Jesus Christ’s Return.

Live in us and help us to live in you.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform us so that our worship,

our celebration, and our time of preparation,

may give glory to your Holy Name, now and for ever. **Amen.**

###### Prayer of Confession

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**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 in Jesus Christ has given us

 a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

 forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God’s truth,

 strengthen us to do God’s will and give us the joy of his kingdom,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Psalm 130**

 Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.

 Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

 If you recorded all our sins

 who could come before you?

**My hope is in God’s word.**

 There is forgiveness with you:

 therefore you shall be feared.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

 My soul is longing for the Lord,

 more than those who watch for daybreak.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

 O Israel, wait for the Lord,

 for with the Lord there is mercy.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

 and to the Holy Spirit.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

**The Bible readings for ADVENT Sunday**

Jeremiah 33:14-16 – *Into the gloom and despondency Jeremiah brings hope for the future when God will bring justice & righteousness through the coming of the Saviour.*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 – *Paul offers gracious thanks for the faith of the Thessalonian Christians and prays that the Lord Jesus may deepen their faith.*

Luke 21:25-36 – *Jesus’ prophesises the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and advises his disciples that these tribulations will further vindicate Jesus and all who believe in him.*

*(A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection)*

‘There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars.

On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ *Luke 21:25-28*

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,**

**who was, and is, and is to come.**

**We believe in God the Father, who created all things:**

**for by his will they were created**

**and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who was slain:**

**for with his blood,**

**he purchased us for God,**

**from every tribe and language,**

**from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit:**

**the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’**

**Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

**Prayers** *(we can add our own prayers at each section)*

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

Come to your Church as Lord and judge,

seeking out the things that are awry and giving us time to amend them.

We pray for…

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for…

Before you rulers will stand in silence. We pray for patience and peace.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for…

Break into our lives, where we struggle with anxiety, sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

**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.

**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.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

**The Collect for ADVENT Sunday**

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.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(or the traditional form, if you prefer)*

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.

O Lord our God,

make us watchful and keep us faithful

as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;

that, when he shall appear,

he may not find us sleeping in sin

but active in his service and joyful in his praise;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

May 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 may the peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God

and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

now and always. **Amen.**

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