



Worship for Sunday 15th November 2020

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our service on this the 2nd Sunday before advent. Welcome if you are joining us on Zoom or from home. It is lovely to have you with us this morning as we gather before our generous God. Let us take a moment to be still in the presence of God so that we are ready for worship this morning.

Call to worship

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**
The lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A gathering prayer

As a Church, we have been given many gifts, many talents, many opportunities, and so we pray: Loving God help us – individually, and as your people together – to be witness in the world today. Help us to take risks and not stay in our comfort zones. Bless us with the courage of your first disciples, that your kingdom may come and your will be done in this place and throughout the world. We ask this in Jesus name. **Amen**

Hymn: Immortal invisible God only wise

A prayer of approach

We bring to you, gracious God, what is yours: our thanks, our praise, our hearts, our lives. As we worship, as we celebrate, as we listen and as we pray, bless each one of us with a sense of your presence and the reassurance of your love. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayers for penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So, let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith. *Pause.*

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

A Thessalonian prayer

Living and true God help us to be children of light, watchful and ready, so that when encouragement or support is needed we, your faithful, loving children are there to help. **Amen**

Hymn: Hear the call of the kingdom

Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

Talk

I have made a video of the talk.

Creed

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Hymn: Take my life and let it be

A way into prayer

It is easy to wait expectantly on God and forget that he waits expectantly on us too. Reflect on what you have been entrusted with. Then prayer: To you, Lord of love, I offer my gifts, invest my time, and entrust my life. **Amen**



Prayers

I have made a video of the prayers.

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. Heavenly Father, anoint your Church all over the world with the oil of your Spirit, so that we burn brightly, lighting the dark world with your love and truth. You have blessed each one of us with a diversity of gifts, help us to use what we have been given in your service and in the building up of the kingdom of God. Help us to encourage each other as we work together to build a better world for everyone. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, take the false values of our world and upend them; take the oppressed and free them; take the leaders and inspire the; take the past and redeem it, the present and fill it, the future and guide us in it. We pray for peace in the world and an end to poverty and oppression. We continue our prayers for all those affected by the coronavirus, for those who are ill, in recovery, bereaved, the anxious and fearful, those who have lost their jobs, those who are worried about money and those who are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, may they know love and light in their lives. We pray for all those involved in medical research, bless them with insight and wisdom. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we bring to you the joys and worries, the frustrations and accomplishments of this week in the lives of the communities of which we are a part. As we pray, let your light shine into all these lives and may they know your love, light, strength, and hope. We prayer for our local hospitals, doctor's surgery, care homes and places of education, giving thanks for all their compassion and kindness, fill them with the strength and skills needed to continue to care for others. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are ill and suffering whether in body, mind, or spirit and in a moment of silence we name any known to us before you. *Silence.* Surround them and those who love and care for them with your love and healing, your reassurance and peace. We pray for those who are too weak or exhausted to pray but simply know they ache for your comfort; may they find rest in you. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the lives of those who have recently died and for all they meant to those who love them. In a moment of silence, we name before you any known to us. *Silence.* Be with all those who are grieving at this time, may they find in you comfort, peace and hope. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, we bring our own prayers to God. *Silence.*

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

The peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. "..... (the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.

Hymn: Go forth and tell

A personal prayer

Help me Lord, to keep awake and be aware of the needs of others. Give me discernment to make good choices, wisdom to use my gifts wisely, humility not to covert the talents of others and the light of a prayerful heart to guide me in all I do and say. Amen

We go out

May God give to you and to all those whom you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and service the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

This week

Be an encourager, this week, of other people's gifts. Think of someone low on confidence who you can build up. Name them before God and ask God to show you how you can encourage them this week.