



Worship for 2nd Sunday in Advent – Sunday 6th December

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our service this morning on this the second of Advent. It is lovely to have you with us this morning whether you are joining us in church, on Zoom or following the service at home. As we prepare for worship this morning let us take a moment to be still in the presence of God.

Call to worship

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**
The lord be with you. **And also with you.**
God in Christ as revealed his glory. **Come let us worship.**
From the rising of the sun to its setting **the lord's name is greatly to be praise.**
Give him praise, you servants of the Lord. **O Praise the name of the Lord!**

Hymn: long ago prophets knew

A prayer

Father God, just as you sent your servant John into the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord and make ready your people to receive him, so prepare us now to respond afresh to the gift of Christ to all that you offer us through him. Give us a readiness truly to listen, learn, worship, and respond, receiving the forgiveness he extends and the renewal he made possible, and giving back in return our heartfelt gratitude expressed in true commitment and faithful service. In his name we pray. **Amen**

Prayer of penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinner. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. Forgive us all that is past and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Collect for the Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Come, Lord Jesus, draw near; come, lord: **come among us.**
Come as our Saviour; come, Lord: **come among us.**
Come as our Friend; come, Lord: **come among us.**
Come as the light; come, Lord: **come among us.**
Come and we shall be saved; Come, Lord: **come among us.**

Hymn: Come down Oh love divine

Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

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: Come thou long expected Jesus

Prayers

As we gather expectantly in God's presence, let us pray.

Heavenly father we thank you for all those who remind us to be kind and loving by their words and example. Help us to follow their example and to reflect your love and light in our lives. We pray that as a church and as individuals we may get ready to welcome you this Christmas. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for the world's leaders and all in authority that they may lead and govern wisely and honestly for the common good. We bring before you those places in our world where there is conflict and war, political and civil unrest and poverty and famine. In a moment of silence, we bring before you any stories from the news that have been on our heart this week. *Silence.* May the world work together to build a better world for all and give us the courage and grace to play our part. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of love and faithfulness may every family and home be surrounded and filled by your presence and love. We pray for our local community giving thanks for all those who support and care for others especially those who work in the NHS, care homes and social services, we ask that you bless them with the resources they need to continue their good work. We pray for those amongst us who are feeling lonely or who are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, show us ways in which we can reach out to them with your light and love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of wholeness bring your reassurance and healing, your hope and love to all who are suffering in any way and in a moment of silence we name any before you. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly father, even as we pray now, there are those journeying through death. We pray for them, for all who have recently died, and for all those who miss them. May the bereaved know your unfailing presence and the strength and comfort of your love and hope. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, we offer 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

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. 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: Hills of the north rejoice

We go out

Lord, as you come to your Church, help us to reveal your glory. Grant that we may show your grace and your goodness in our lives. Amen

The Lord grant you a vision of his presence, an awareness of his love, a sensitivity of his guiding, and the bless of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and your loved ones this day and for always. **Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love, and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Material for this service is taken from Common Worship: Services and prayers for the Church of England and New Patterns for Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, The Bumper Book of Resources: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Edited by John Cox Kevin Mayhew 2015 and Prayers of intercession for Common Worship by Susan Sayers, 1999 Kevin Mayhew.