

Advent Service Online – 29th November 2020

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. *[Isaiah 9:2]*

Welcome and opening prayer

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Poem: 'Mischief' by Godfrey Rust

Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6

Let us reflect in silence and thank God for his loving plans for us, and for his care for so many generations before us. We give thanks that we are part of this centuries-long relationship and so are linked with the patriarchs, with all who acknowledged the true God before, and with the generations yet to come.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Through the ages, Prophets have told of God's nearness to the people, and of God's love for us. The Prophets knew that God would send 'the anointed one' – the Messiah – to dwell among us, to bring the Kingdom of heaven to where we might reach it. The words of the Prophets are like lights in the darkness, promises that God has not forgotten us.

Poem: 'The Place where we are right' by Yehuda Amichai

Reading: Isaiah 9: v.6

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

All Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

The last and greatest of the Prophets is the one who introduces his own disciples to God made Man – Jesus himself. The voice calling out in the wilderness, 'Prepare yourself to meet the Lord.'

Reading: John 1: 6-9

Poem: 'St John the Baptist 1: St John's Eve' by Malcolm Guite

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

All Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

But in order to fill the Great Plan, God involves his people. Someone surprising, unimportant, someone you might not even notice.

Reading: Luke 1: vv.26-27

Reading: 'Angel 1' from 'A Star-filled Grace' by Rachel Mann

Mary says 'Yes' to God – which makes the coming of Christ possible. What can we do Lord, to hasten your coming today?

We long for your coming. We long for your light in this cold, dark world at the end of this year of covid, of sickness, fear and isolation, of wars and rumours of wars in far off countries, and of divisions and hard feelings closer to home; a year of losses and of sadness.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

All Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Poem: 'Winter Birth' by Catherine James

This Advent, as we wait for The Light of the World,
We pray for God's light to overcome the despair of loss and loneliness.
We pray for all who are homeless, and those who work to shelter them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,

All Let there be light

This Advent, as we wait for The Light of the World,
We pray for all who are living in poverty, and those who work to provide for them.
We pray for all who are in danger, and those who work to protect them.
We pray for all who are sick, and for those who work to heal them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,

All Let there be light

This Advent, as we wait for The Light of the World,
We pray that the love of God would bring light in the lives of our family and friends.
We pray for all who are seeking you, and those who are leading the way.
We pray that the light of God would fill us all with sure and certain hope.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,

All Let there be light

The Lord's Prayer (traditional version)

Blessing and Dismissal

The night shall be no more and we will need no light from lamps.
For God is our light, and always walks before us.
Go forth into the light and share in the recreating of the world.
And may God the Creator give us all a new day,

All Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

All Amen.

As we await the coming of our Saviour, let us go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.