

Welcome and notices

Lighting of advent ring.

As we light the Advent ring, let us reflect on the light of the world, the joy of worship, a time to be with God and to reset our lives

This week we think about Hope – what it means each day as we go about our business

We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn 154 .

HARK THE GLAD SOUND! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release ,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,

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And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Philip Doddridge, altd

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, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

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**

Hymn

***On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 announces that the Lord is nigh.
 Awake and harken, for he brings
 glad tidings of the King of kings***

***Then cleansed be every life from sin:
 make straight the way for God within,
 and let us all our hearts prepare
 for Christ to come and enter there.***

***We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
 our refuge and our great reward.
 Without your grace we waste away
 like flowers that wither and decay.***

***Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
 and make us rise to fall no more.
 O let your face upon us shine
 and fill the world with love divine.***

***All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.***

Charles Coffin, Tr John Chandler

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-end

Matthew 24:36-44

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Talk

Hymn: 410

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.

O Come, O come, thou harbinger Of peace
To Israel's plains and Gaza's streets
Melt swords there into ploughshares again
Then reconcile these residents in pain.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou shepherd of lament
Into our winter's discontent

Shine warmth to all who shiver in fear
 And comfort 'til the spring of Christ is near.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
 and bring us comfort from afar!
 Dispel the shadows of the night
 and turn our darkness into light,
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O King Of nations, bind
 in one the hearts Of all mankind.
 Bid all our sad divisions cease
 and be yourself our King Of Peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Tr. John Mason Neale, altd

In the tender mercy of our God,
 the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
 to give light to those who dwell in darkness
 and in the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

We say together in faith
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,

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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.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Prayers

Including prayer for 5

As God welcomes us into His kingdom with great joy
we say together

**Gracious God thank you for welcoming us into your kingdom.
Your heart's desire is to draw everyone to yourself.**

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**May all those who enter this church
sense your presence and find your peace.
Make us ready to welcome all those
who come seeking you
and build your kingdom here
to the praise and glory of your name.**

**In the power of the Holy Spirit
May we know the joy of the Lord,
Growing disciples of Christ
With compassion, confidence and courage
To the Glory of God the Father
Amen**

Advent theme

Hymn 314

JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,

The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts.

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.
With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.
In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.
In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

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