

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 Joy – 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 520

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of His word;

In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!

Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;

His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!

2

Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!

Timothy Dudley-Smith. © 1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith.

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.

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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 935

MY JESUS, MY SAVIOUR,

Lord, there is none like You.
 All of my days I want to praise
 The wonders of Your mighty love.
 My comfort, my shelter,
 Tower of refuge and strength,
 Let every breath, all that I am,
 Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
 Power and majesty, praise to the King.
 Mountains bow down
 And the seas will roar
 At the sound of Your name.
 I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
 Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
 Nothing compares to the
 Promise I have in You.*

Collect Prayer

**God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 35.1–10

Matthew 11.2–11

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Talk

Hymn: 412

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

My great Redeemer's praise!

The glories of my God and King,

The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

That bids our sorrows cease,

That bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,

'Tis life, and health, and peace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
 The Lamb of God was slain,
 The Lamb of God was slain;
 His soul was once an offering made
 For every soul of man.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
 He sets the prisoner free,
 He sets the prisoner free;
 His blood can make the foulest clean,
 His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to His voice,
 New life the dead receive,
 New life the dead receive;
 The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
 The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
 Your loosened tongues employ,
 Your loosened tongues employ;
 Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
 And leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through all the earth abroad
 The honours of Thy name.

Charles Wesley.

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,
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.
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**

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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