



St Edmund's Taverham with St Peter's Ringland

Welcome to our worship for the second week of Advent where we explore together the theme of peace and worship the One who is peace.

Our gathering song (**Keep my eyes on you** – written by Graham Kendrick)

God my light, all through the valley You're with me

God my strength, whatever may come You are mighty
And Your love, it's greater than all of my fear
And Your ways are higher than mine

And I'll keep my eyes on You, keep my eyes on You
Whatever I go through You're still God, You are God
Your every word is true, so I'll put my trust in You
Faithful One, keep my eyes on You

God my light, shine on the day that's before me
Give me sight, show me the ways You can use me
And Your face, ever before me I pray
And Your love in all of my ways

You are our salvation, Your love never failing
You are God unchanging, holy One
And Your word stands forever, Your Name our strong tower
Our Hope our Provider, holy One

We come to worship a God of forgiveness,
Who pardons all our sins.
We come to worship the God who sent a messenger saying
“Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path.”
We will listen to what God has to say
– a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for the faithful,
those whose hearts are turned to God.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.
~ written by R. Victor Klassen

Song (He has made me glad – written by Leona Von Brethorst, -Verses 2 and 3 Nick Moore)

I will enter His gates with thanks-giving in my heart

I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

*He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad*

I will follow my Lord, with a purpose in my step
I will spread all the joy of His name
I will tell all the world of the sacrifice He made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

I will shout out His praises with gladness in my soul
I will long for the day He comes again
I will sing of His love with a passion in my heart
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

As we continue our Advent journey towards the stable we are so aware of the turmoil and chaos of the world. We are desperately in need of the peace that is Jesus, who comes among us to fill us by his Spirit and who inspires us to live in love and peace.

We light the second candle on our Advent wreath.

Peace

Dear God,
As we journey down this Advent road,
grant us the courage to make peace.
Peace in our hearts,
Peace in our homes,
Peace in our communities. Amen.

Our scripture reading this week is from the gospel according to **Mark chapter 1:1-8**

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;

3

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight,’ ”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Prepare the way of the Lord.

These are such amazing words that John speaks as he lives out the words of the prophet Isaiah. Perhaps you picture the scene and get a sense of the excitement that maybe, just maybe, someone is going to appear on the scene, someone whose arrival has been long awaited.

You may like to read the thought in this week's St Ed's newssheet or on the St Peter's website.

Let us pray.

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.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Song (How Great is our God) Written by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash)

The splendour of the King clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice and trembles at His voice

*How great is our God sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

And age to age He stands and time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names worthy of all praise
My heart will sing how great is our God

Blessing the Way

With every step
you take,
this blessing rises up
to meet you.
It has been waiting
long ages for you.
Look close
and you can see
the layers of it,
how it has been fashioned
by those who walked
this road before you,
how it has been created
of nothing but
their determination
and their dreaming,
how it has taken
its form
from an ancient hope
that drew them forward
and made a way for them
when no way could be
seen.
Look closer

and you will see
this blessing
is not finished,
that you are part
of the path
it is preparing,
that you are how
this blessing means
to be a voice
within the wilderness
and a welcome
for the way.

—Jan Richardson

Song (My prayer for you written by Alisa Turner)

For anyone who's prayed a thousand prayers

And still can't find the answer anywhere
Fighting off the lie that no one cares

For anyone who's out there losing hope
Feeling you're forsaken and alone
Clinging to the last strands of your rope

*May God give you eyes to see He's still greater
Courage to rise and believe He's able
May God be your peace in the fire you're walking through
This is our prayer now
This is our prayer for you*

For all of those with tired and weary souls
But still have faith to ask for miracles
Choosing to believe He's in control

*May your eyes be ever on the Lord, your helper
May you find your refuge in the Lord, your shelter
May you find Him closer than a brother all your days
All of your days!*