

St Luke's Church, Dunham-on-the-Hill
10-minute worship



15th November 2020

2nd Sunday before Advent

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; **let us pray with one heart and mind.**

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, **so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen**

Psalm 90: 1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning.

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on 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.

A collect for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray to God for the needs of the world.

Loving Father, as the nights lengthen and the days become darker, we pray all those whose lives are dreary or full of dread: for those forced to work long hours for little reward; for those who have no work or fear losing their jobs; for those worn down with the effort of caring for loved ones. Be with them in their weariness and anxiety and grant them your strength and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Jesus, as we wait in our separate houses, unable to meet together for worship, unable to visit friends and family, we remember your promise that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. We pray that you will make your presence known to all those who are lonely at this time: young people away from home at university or having recently left Care; the bereaved, especially those now living alone for the first time in many years; Care Home residents who are no longer permitted visitors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of love and hope, we pray for all those who are falling into despair, who see no end to a life of misery and fear. Strengthen them to bear what cannot be changed, and help us to hold out a light to them in their darkness and to work to bring about a more just society in which no one will remain hungry, homeless or unloved.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AMEN.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gracious Lord, in this worship together, you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Words to hymns before and after the service

- 1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

- 2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

- 3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

- 4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

*Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908), Samuel
Longfellow (1819-1892).*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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