



**St Edmund's Church Taverham
and St Peter's Church Ringland**

**Sunday 30th November 2025
Advent Sunday**

To you O Lord, I lift up my soul

In you I trust, O my God
Do not let me be put to shame
Nor let my enemies triumph over me

Show me your ways and teach me your paths
Guide me in truth, lead me on
For you're my God, you are my Saviour
My hope is in you each moment of the day

*No one whose hope is in you, will ever be put to shame
That's why eyes are on you, Oh Lord
Surround me, defend me, O how I need you
To you I lift up my soul, to you I lift up my soul*

Remember Lord your mercy and love, that ever flows from of old
Remember not the sins of my youth, or my rebellious ways
According to your love, remember me
According to your love, for you are good, O Lord
(Graham Kendrick)

The grace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Eager for the coming of Christ,
let us enter into the mystery of God's dawning presence among us.

**Loving God, we open our hearts to you,
and await your gracious coming.**

In the winter darkness we long for your light.

**We confess our need for your grace,
for the sin of our lives and the brokenness of this world.**

Come, O Lord! May your peace dawn on our world.

Come, O Saviour! May your grace be born in our hearts.

Bless the darkness, that we may wait with hope.

Bless the silence, that we may listen for your coming.

Grant us stillness, that with patience and courage
we may prepare room in our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

Come, O Saviour, Come!

(UnfoldingLight.com)

We light our Advent candle

In the darkness, a light shines.

In the waiting, life stirs.

As we remember that Christ is the 'life-light' bringing life to the world and filling the darkness with light.

With each candle we light, we proclaim that the light of Christ is stronger than the shadows, and the life He brings is everlasting.

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.

In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light," and light broke into the darkness.

That same light shines in us, stirring hope even when all seems lost.

This candle reminds us that God's promise of life and renewal still burns bright.

God of life, shine your hope into our hearts.

Kindle in us a light that never fades,

that we may live as people of promise and new beginnings.

Amen.

(The Methodist Church)

God in community, holy in One, we pray as Jesus has taught us saying,

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.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appears

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free

Thine own from Satan's tyranny

From depths of hell thy people save

And give them victory over the grave

O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

O come, O come, thou Lord of might
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times did'st give the Law
In cloud, and majesty and awe
(Traditional)

**God of life,
we confess we are asleep;
oblivious to our sin,
ignorant of your grace.
Awaken us; open our eyes,
to see our sin and brokenness,
to see your forgiveness and healing,
through the gift of Christ Jesus,
to shine with your grace. Amen.**

Psalm 122, a paraphrase

My heart smiled, God, when you said to me,
"Come; come into my house!"
Here, where we are, you are present, God!
**We are all joined together as neighbours,
as a village bound firmly together.**

When we draw close to you
all separate tribes become one.
This is what you promised to your people,
so that our unity would be your praise.

How can we not thank you together
The power that is real
is the power of our love for one another;
it's what makes sense of our lives.

We pray for the peace of God's community.
May all who are loving be blessed.
May all people have peace.
May everyone live in gentleness, without fear.

Everyone is my friend, my family!
To you all I say, "Peace be with you!"
I want to fill God's house with blessing,
so I will seek the good of God's whole household.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah beginning at chapter 2 verse 1

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. 'For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord !

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to you
Make us your own, your holy people
Light for the world to see

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has pow'r to save us
Make us your living voice

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst
Make us your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making your kingdom come
(Bernadette Farrell)

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew beginning at chapter 24 verse 36

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.

The one who is full of patience,

who is not afraid of silence,

who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.

The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,

and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,

who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,

who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,

who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,

who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,

who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,

whose silence overpowered their words,

who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,

sometimes arriving with obvious power,

sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God

who patiently waits for us,

and who longs for us to do the same.

copyright © Dave Hopwood/

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
(Graham Kendrick)

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.**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy
Be there at our waking and give us we pray
Your bliss in our hearts Lord at the break of the day

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe
Be there at our labours and give us we pray
Your strength in our hearts Lord at the noon of the day

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace
Be there at our homing and give us we pray
Your love in our hearts Lord at the eve of the day

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm
Be there at our sleeping and give us we pray
Your peace in our hearts Lord at the end of the day
(Jan Struther/Traditional Tune)

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.
Stay alert for the Lord is near.
Put on the armour of light
and live openly and honourably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.

And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;
May Christ Jesus teach you his ways;
And may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and prepared
for the coming day of the Lord.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ. Amen.
copyright © 2001 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and

All your soul and all your mind and
Love all of mankind as you would love yourself and

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart
With all your soul and mind and love all mankind

We've got Christian lives to live
We've got Jesus' love to give
We've got nothing to hide because in Him we abide
(Our Lord)

CCLC184420
Streaming Licence 333710
Music Reproduction Licence 184420
SongSelect®Advanced