

**Advent Wreath: Week 1: The Patriarchs**

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face.  
Remember the ways and the works of God.

God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.

Let us pray:

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in our preparation to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
and to make his home among us.

We ask this through him who is the light coming into the world,  
the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Opening Hymn: Lo! He comes with clouds descending**

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Helmsley 9 NEH*

**The Collect**

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.**

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

*1 Thessalonians 3: 9–end*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Wait for the Lord**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*Taize Community*

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Luke 21: 25–36*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living 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.**

Offertory Hymn: Longing for light

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.

*Refrain: 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 power to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain:*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain:*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain:*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. *Refrain:*

*Christ be our light 42 AM*

Anthem: Rorate Caeli - Palestrina

Rorate caeli desuper,  
et nubes pluant justum:  
aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.  
Ostende nobis, Domine,  
misericordiam tuam: et salutare tuum da nobis.  
Veni, Domine, et noli tardare. Alleluia!

*Drop down you heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness:  
let the earth open, and bring forth salvation.  
Show us your mercy, O Lord:  
and grant us your salvation.  
Come, Lord, and tarry not. Alleluia!*

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c1525–94)  
Isaiah 45: 8*

Dismissal: Thou didst leave thy throne

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home there was found no room  
for thy holy nativity:

*Refrain: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
there is room in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
and in great humility:

*Refrain:*

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
that should set thy people free;  
but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn  
they bore thee to Calvary:

*Refrain:*

When all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee:

*Refrain:*