

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

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.

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 St Paul's letter to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

Romans 13: 11–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 Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: '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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Matthew 24: 36–44

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.

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: vigilate - Byrd

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando dominus
domus veniat, sero, an media nocte,
an galli cantu, an mane.
Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit
repente inveniatis vos dormientes.
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico:
Vigilate.

*Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master
of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.
Watch therefore, lest when he comes
without warning he find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all:
Watch.*

*William Byrd (c 1540–1623)
St Mark 13: 35–37, Sacrarum cantionum 1589*

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:*

Margaret 465 NEH