

Sunday 3 December 2023
Hymns, Readings, and Collect

Advent Sunday
First Sunday of Advent

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.

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 New Testament Reading

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 1: 3–9

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 Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Mark 13: 24–end

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

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Communion Hymn: May the grace of Christ

May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favour,
rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford.

To the God whose wisdom made us,
to the Son who set us free,
to the sanctifying Spirit,
glory, endless glory, be! Amen.

Waltham 298 NEH

Junior Choir Anthem: Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

from Godspell

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