

Sunday 3rd December, 2023 11.00 am

The First Sunday in Advent

Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.

Assistant Minister: Mrs. Julie Hearty, B.D.

Musical Director: Mr. Alan A. Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.

Welcome & Intimations

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 273 O come, O come, Emmanuel,

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain

4 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.
Refrain

5 O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

Latin, 12th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)
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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

The Advent Wreath

Hymn 727 In a bulb, there is a flower;

1 In the bulb there is a flower ;
in the seed, an apple tree ;
in cocoons, a hidden promise :
butterflies will soon be free !
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future,
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

- 3 In our end is our beginning ;
 in our time, infinity ;
 in our doubt there is believing ;
 in our life, eternity.
 In our death, a resurrection ;
 at the last, a victory,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.

Natalie Allyn Wakeley Sleeth (1930–1992)

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Isaiah 64:1-9

Hymn 51 God of hosts, you chose a vine (Psalm 80)

- 1 God of hosts, you chose a vine
 meant to bear the finest wine,
 set it in a promised land,
 nurtured by your careful hand.
- 2 Like a cedar, it grew strong,
 deep its roots, its tendrils long ;
 yet, in envy, those around
 stripped its branches to the ground.
- 3 Desolate, to God we cry :
 ‘Spare us from the enemy !’
 God of hosts, turn back again,
 all such wickedness restrain.
- 4 Turn us too, for we have failed,
 faithfulness has not prevailed ;
 visit, Lord, and heal your vine,
 on its fruit let glory shine !

from Psalm 80, verses 7-10, 14-15 David Mowbray (b. 1938)

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1 Corinthians 1:3-9 St. Mark 13:24-37

Anthem

Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayer of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father which art in heaven,
 Hallowed be thy Name.**

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

**For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for
 ever. Amen.**

Hymn 605 Thanks to God whose word was spoken

- 1 Thanks to God whose word was spoken
 in the making of the earth.
 His the voice that called a nation,
 her vision, tried her worth.
 * God has spoken :
 praise him for his open word.
- 2 Thanks to God whose word incarnate
 came to save our human race.
 Deeds and words and death and rising
 testify to heaven's grace.
 God has spoken :
 praise him for his open word.
- 3 Thanks to God whose word was written
 in the Bible's sacred page,
 record of the revelation
 showing God to every age.
 God has spoken :
 praise him for his open word.

4 Thanks to God whose word is published
in the tongues of every race.
See its glory undiminished
by the change of time or place.
God has spoken :
praise him for his open word.

5 Thanks to God whose word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking :
praise him for his open word.

* *This line of each verse is repeated.*

Reginald Thomas Brooks (1918–1985)(*alt.*)

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Benediction

Choral Amen (3-fold)