

Sunday 8th December, 2024

The Second Sunday in Advent

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

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

Members of the congregation who are able to stand are invited to do so as the Bible is brought in and taken out of the Church.

Intimations

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 710 I have a dream a man once said

1 "I have a dream", a man once said,
"where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love."

2 But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.

3 Fierce persecution, war, and hate
are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price
through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.

4 So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content:
for thoughts and words don't ease the pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.

5 Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace.

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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

The Advent Wreath

Hymn 282 Christmas is coming (v.1,2)

*Christmas is coming,
the Church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.*

1 The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.

Chorus

2 The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

Chorus

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Malachi, Chapter 3, verses 1-4

Hymn 284 Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets

- 1 Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,
never consumed, though it burns through the years ;
dim in the daylight of power and privilege —
when they are gone, hope will shine on.
- 2 Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows —
violence and force their dead-end course.
- 3 Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,
where every face is the face of a friend.
Widen the circle by sharing and giving —
God's holy dare : love everywhere.
- 4 Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter,
mystery of light that is born in the dark ;
laughter at hearing the voice of an angel,
ever so near, casting out fear.
- 5 Christ is the light that the prophets awaited,
Christ is the lion, the lamb, and the child.
Christ is the love and the mystery and laughter —
candles, make way ! Christ is the day.

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St. Luke, Chapter 3, verses 1-6
Anthem
Sermon
The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)
Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn 519 Love divine, all loves excelling

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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Benediction
Choral Amen