

Sunday 14th December, 2025 The Third Sunday in Advent
Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.
Student Minister: Mr. Euan Gibb, B.A, P.G.D.E.
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.

Welcome & Intimations

- Please ensure all **mobile phones 📱** are switched off or in silent mode during the Service.
- **Please place your offering in the Offering Plates** as these are uplifted during the Service.
- **Tea and Coffee** will be available after Church **today in the Cameron Hall.**
- The **Ticket Office** for the **Springfield Cambridge Festival Chorus Christmas Concert** is open at **Cadder South Hall** on **Wednesdays and Fridays** between **10.00 am and 12 noon.**
- There will **NOT** be a **Vestry Hour** on **Wednesday 17th. December, 2025** or a **midweek Service.**

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn – Advent Candle (Tune: Joy to the World)

Chorus

*Come, light the candles, one by one,
The Advent call we hear.
With hope and peace and joy and love,
His light will fill the world, His light will fill the world,
His light will come and shine through all the earth.*

Verse 1 Hope

Light now the candle, hope's bright flame,
It shines through darkest night.
Let every heart prepare a place,
For Christ the saviour comes, for Christ the saviour comes,
For Christ will come and fill the world with light.

Chorus

Verse 2 Peace

Light now the candle, peace will grow,
God's promise shining clear.
No fear shall reign, no hate divide,
God's peace will surely come, God's peace will surely come,
God's peace will come and make the nations one.

Chorus

Verse 3 Joy

Light now the candle, joy we sing,
Our hearts are full and free.
For Christ our Lord is on the way,
Rejoice in Him always, rejoice in Him always,
Rejoice and let all praise be sung.

Chorus

©Eleanor Hamilton

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach and Confession

The Advent Wreath

Sunday School Nativity

Hymn 304 O little town of Bethlehem,

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by;
Yet in your streets is shining
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) (alt.)

Little donkey, little donkey

Little donkey, little donkey
On a dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With the precious load.
Been a long time little donkey
Thro' the winter's night.
Don't give up now little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow the star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey carry Mary
Safely on her way.*

Little donkey, little donkey
Journey's end is near
There are wisemen waiting for a
Sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey
There's a star ahead
It will guide you, little donkey
To a cattle shed

*Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey carry Mary
Safely on her way.
Little donkey carry Mary
Safely on her way.*

**Hymn 312 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
(v.1 SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Sometimes attributed to John Thomas Macfarland (1851-1913), *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs* (1892 Louisville), *Little Children's Book: For Schools and Families* (1885 Philadelphia) Copied from HymnQuest 2010: CLUE Version
HymnQuest ID: 50822

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,^[a]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,^[b]
but it shall be for God's people,^[c]
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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.

Hymn 804 You shall go out with joy

St. Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³ and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers^[c] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone^[d] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet?^[e] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reflection

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers 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.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

Stuart Dauermann (born 1944) © Lillenas Publishing Company/Admin. by Song Solutions CopyCare, 14 Horsted Square, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1QG, UK. info@songsolutions.org Used by permission.CCLI#: 20546
CCLI Licence No. 21143 Created by HymnQuest.com - HymnQuest ID: 64745

Benediction

Choral Amen