

10am Sunday Service (O3)
27 November 2022 - Annual Parish Meeting

Welcome

Call to Worship

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.

Song: Better is one Day

How lovely is Your dwelling place

O Lord almighty

For my soul longs and even faints for You

For here my heart is satisfied

Within Your presence

I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts

Better is one day in Your house

Better is one day in Your courts

Than thousands elsewhere

(Than thousands elsewhere)

One thing I ask and I would seek

To see Your beauty

To find You in the place

Your glory dwells

(REPEAT)

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

CCLI Song # 1097451 Matt Redman
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Song: Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty
Manhood and deity
In perfect harmony
The Man who is God
Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility
And washes our feet

O what a mystery
Meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship
For this is your God
This is your God

Father's pure radiance
Perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience
To death on a cross
Suffering to give us life
Conquering through sacrifice
And as they crucify
Prays 'Father forgive'

Wisdom unsearchable
God the invisible

Love indestructible
In frailty appears
Lord of infinity
Stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne

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Advent Wreath

Speaker 1: This week is the first Sunday of Advent, and we are reminded again of the hope that Christ's coming brings for everyone.

This year, the invitation comes to us again. It is an invitation to slow down, to relearn a pace of life that is unhurried so that we can focus on a life lived in God's light. This life is one filled with hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus encourages us to live in 'readiness' – always aware that Christ's coming is immanent and avoiding the temptation of growing absorbed in self-interest and personal pleasure.

Each year we light candles and the flame helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

In God's Word the prophet Isaiah describes God as being the light of the world.

"Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; The glory of the Lord is shining on you! Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the Lord will shine; The brightness of his presence will be with you."

The first candle is lit.

Poem:

Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know

How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness as bright as God's day.

Prayer:

Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly with the hope that Christ has brought to the earth as God came to dwell amongst us. Help us to be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Saviour's name we pray. Amen.

Puppets

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 1.3-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace intended for you made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings intended for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look!

Message

Offering Song: Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Christ alone cornerstone

**Weak made strong in the Saviour's love Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all**

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne
Faultless stand before the throne

CCLI Song # 6158927 Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William Batchelder Bradbury
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Offering Prayer

Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world.
You fill our emptiness with your goodness.
You come to our weakness with your strength.
Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest
of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment.

The Confession

**Heavenly Father,
You have loved us with an everlasting love,
But we have broken your holy laws**

And have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God is slow to anger and full of compassion,
Forgiving all who humbly repent
And trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord
God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus,
In whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and our World

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power
for you created all things, making us in your own image.
We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine,
and pray that we who receive them,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
according to our Saviour's word,
in remembrance of his suffering and death,
may share his body and blood.
On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup
to proclaim the death of the Lord.

We do this until he returns.
Come, Lord Jesus!

Father, as we recall his saving death
and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts
be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.
Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom,
there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour
and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending out of God's People

Gracious God,
thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Notices

Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest
drought and storm
What heights of love
what depths of peace
When fears are stilled
when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the
precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

CCLI Song # 3350395 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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Blessing