

*Advent*

**SERVICE OF LIGHT**

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Holy Trinity Church Bothenhampton

*Advent is a time of watching and waiting, when we reflect on the darkness of our world into which the light of Christ comes.*

*It is a season of penitence and contemplation even though we are all busy.*

*Our worship will begin in darkness – expressing the longing of the soul – and the light will come among us.*

*As we prepare to journey through Advent, we can look forward from our darkness, trusting that God's Light always will overcome the darkness of the world.*

*Please remain seated.*

*The service begins in low light as the choir sing:*

*All lights are extinguished and the Pascal candle is lit*

### **Anthem: Creator of the starry height (choir)**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:

a light no darkness can quench.

*The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit*

Within the deepest darkness

a glowing light is lit.

The darkness cannot put it out

or do away with it

This is the path that God marked,

who said at the beginning, "Let there be light"

and there was light

**and God saw that the light was good.**

For the people walking in the darkness

a great light dawns.

The true light, which lightens everyone,

is coming into the world.

**The Light shines in the darkness,**

**The light that the darkness cannot put out.**

*While the light is shared amongst us, the choir sings*

**Choir sings "Wait for the Lord"** 'arr Sue & Graham'.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe,  
eternal creator of light and darkness.

In this Advent season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by  
the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to  
reveal among us the splendour of your glory, made flesh and  
visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to  
the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness;  
support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will, and free our  
tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessings  
are due, Now and forever. **Amen**

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Church lights on*

**Hymn 358 – O come, O come, Emmanuel**

*The Collects*

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 forever.

**Amen**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Please extinguish your candle*

## **Hymn 98 – Come thou long expected Jesus**

God calls Adam    Genesis 3, vv 1-13 **Holy Trinity Bothenhampton**

### *Confession*

Christ came in humility to share our lives.

Forgive our pride – Lord have mercy,

**Lord have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people.

Forgive our silence – Christ have mercy,

**Christ have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering.

Forgive our self-centredness – Lord have mercy,

**Lord have mercy.**

### *Absolution*

May God, who loved the world so much that He sent His Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins, make us holy to serve Him in the world, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Amen.**

God calls Abraham    Genesis 12, vv 1-3 - **St Mary's Bridport**

**Hymn 489 – The Lord will come**

God calls the Prophets            Isaiah 6, vv 1- 8 **St Swithuns**

**Anthem – Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Choir)** ‘arr Stephen Cleobury’

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known to the world.

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the church.

**This is our faith, we believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

God calls John the Baptist        Mark 1, vv 1-8 **Holy Trinity Bradpole**

**Hymn 196 – Hark a herald voice is calling**

God calls Mary            Luke 1, vv 26 – 38 **St Mary's Walditch**

**Hymn 401 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

## *Prayers*

In joyful expectation of his coming  
we pray to Jesus, saying,  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your Church as Lord and Judge.  
We pray for our 6 churches,  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your people with a message of victory and peace.  
We pray for Christians in all the world  
Give us the victory over death, temptation and evil.  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as Saviour and Comforter.  
We pray for all who we know and love who need your touch right  
now,  
Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.  
Lift us up to meet you,  
with John & Mary and all your saints and angels,  
to live with you for ever.  
Maranatha.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

God calls Jesus John 3, v 16 **St John's**

God calls us *The Calling (Aotearoa Psalms)*

Jesus says, "Come, follow me."

"Lord, you're calling the wrong person. I'm not the following type. It takes me all my time to stand on my own two feet."

And he says, "**I love you.**"

"Now don't get me wrong, Lord. I do all that I can within reason. But I can't afford to go overboard. I mean, I have to live in this world."

And he says, "**I love you.**"

"It's all very well to talk about love, but love is dangerous. It can get people crucified.

At the best it can be misunderstood. If I go round telling people I love them, someone's going to lock me up."

And he says, "**I love you.**"

"The trouble is, I'm not ready. Come back in a few years when I've sorted my life out.

By then I should have something to offer you."

And he says, "**I love you.**"

“Lord, don’t look at me like that. You’re making it very difficult.  
All right, I’ll spell it out. I’m a sinner. I’d let you down. I’d give my  
life to you and then try to take it back again. I’m weak Lord.”

And he says, “**I love you.**”

“You don’t understand what I’m telling you. I’d deny and betray  
you. There’d be times when I’d crucify you. And what would you  
think of me then?”

And he says, “**I love you.**”

## **Anthem – Hark the glad sound (Choir)** ‘by David Thorne’

God Sends Us      Matthew 28:16-20 - Graham

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

#### *The Blessing*

Christ the son of righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and  
the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn 307 – Lo he comes**

#### *The Dismissal*

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**