



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

*compiled by Michael Winter - Local Preacher &
Anglican Lay Minister*

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for the peoples and nations of the word.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
We pray for all known to us who suffer at this time.
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 as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
We remember those we have loved and see no more.
Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with St Mary and all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn - STF 180

1] O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2] O come, O come, O Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

3] O come, O Rod of Jesse, free
you own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory over the grave.

4] O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

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

*Latin 18th century - translated by John Mason
Neale (1811-1866)*

Reading: Isaiah 40

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Prayers

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn STF 169

1] Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2] Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3] Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4] By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Reflection

'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.'

Recently I recalled the tenth anniversary of the death of a friend of mine, who died in his early 60s of cancer. I hadn't seen Nick for some years but I knew him well as a teenager and I have a vivid memory of him speaking out the words 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people ...' in dramatic style at our annual Carol services. It was particularly memorable because Nick, remember this was the late 60s and early 70s, seemed to some of us youngsters, to resemble the prophet Isaiah with his thick, long hair and beard. Now few would turn a hair at the sight - forgive the pun - but then it caused quite a stir; someone who looked like that reading a lesson in church! Not such a stir as Isaiah himself whose challenge to the authorities of his day turned upside down many of the rigidities and certainties that have a habit of creeping into any established pattern of religion.

Part of Advent is to put aside our habitual ways of seeing things and prepare, if such a thing is possible, to be surprised afresh by the seeming folly of our God in emptying himself and giving himself to his own world through the incarnation. Such a mystery as captured in this poem by Malcolm Guite:

O King of our desire whom we despise,
King of the nations never on the throne,
Unfount foundation, cast-off cornerstone,
Rejected joiner, making many one,
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,
A King who comes to give away his crown,
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,
For we ourselves are found in you alone.
Come to us now and find in us your throne,
O King within the child within the clay,
O hidden King who shapes us in the play
Of all creation. Shape us for the day
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own..

Hymn - STF 171

1] Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

2] He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3] He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace,
To enrich the humble poor.

4] Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heaven's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

First Sunday of Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the
works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now
in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when
he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through
him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

And now we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**