

# Service for Advent Sunday



**St Laurence Church, Downton**

29 November 2020

# Preparation

## Call to Worship

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,  
**for now our salvation is nearer  
than when we first believed.**

The night is far spent, the day is at hand:  
**let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and let us put on the armour of light.**

*Romans 13:11-12*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Team Rector introduces the service*

Hymn: *Lo, he comes with clouds descending*  
*(Lichfield Cathedral Choir)*

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his Passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation

to his ransomed worshipers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Advent Wreath:**

The day is near.  
**And so we wait.**

We wait with hope,  
for the broken-hearted to be healed,  
for the downtrodden to be lifted up.  
**We wait for the coming of the Christ child.**

In this meantime,  
**We will light a candle against the darkness.**

*We light the first candle on our Advent Wreath.*

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.  
You promised hope to the Israelites  
and you kept your promise.  
You promised hope in the coming of your Son  
and he was hope for the world.  
You promised hope to the early church  
and that hope was not denied.  
You promise hope to us  
and we pray for your continued faithfulness.  
As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son,  
fill our hearts and lives with this hope.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

### Travelling Crib:

'In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David'.

*Luke 2:1-4*

This Travelling Crib reflects our own journey in life as we search for where we belong, our true home - which can be found, of course, with God alone.

May the blessings of God be upon us all, as we remember Mary and Joseph on their journey towards Bethlehem, and as we prepare for the coming of Jesus in our lives and in the world. **Amen.**

### Prayer for the nation - the prayer for this week:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.  
In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.  
Do it again, we pray.  
Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,  
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS  
and all our frontline workers.  
Give comfort beyond human comfort  
to the elderly and all who grieve.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days,  
turn your face towards us,  
have mercy upon us,  
and heal our land, we pray. **Amen.**

# *The Liturgy of the Word*

Readings:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-end

*After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Music: *Wake, O wake, with tidings thrilling*  
(*Sheffield Cathedral Choir*)

## *Prayers*

*We are led in a time of prayer*

*This response is used:*

Maranatha,

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said:*

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## *Conclusion*

### The Collect

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 for ever. **Amen.**

### Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in the peace of Christ.

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**