

Highfield Road Uniting Church
Canterbury
Advent - The Season of Waiting
November 29, 2020



WHAT A STATE WE ARE IN!

Elder: Anne Feehan
Reader: Sue Thompson
Prayers: Helen Hill
Music: John Kirkham
Minister: Rev. Ross Pearce

Leading the worship and ministry of all the Congregation

We gather in the name of Christ

Introit "O come, O come Emmanuel" 265

Ross walking in with Christ Candle:

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Congregation to sing while Candle is lit.

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Call to Worship

In the present darkening days
of warfare, consumerism, and environmental destruction
***May we see the signs of coming hope;
The gentle branches of life and the tender shoots of love.***
In the waiting, let us discover what is alive here
***In faith, let us become a branch of promise
for all who feel the dark and are waiting for light.***

Hymn **"Come O God of all the earth"** 181

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| 1 | Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O Righteous One; come, and bring our love to birth: in the glory of your Son. <i>Sing out, earth and skies! sing of the God who loves you; raise your joyful cries; dance to the life around you.</i> | 4 | Come, O God of snow and rain: shower down upon the earth; come, O God of joy and pain: God of sorrow, God of mirth. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 | Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with righteousness; teach us all to sing your name: may our lives your love confess. <i>Refrain</i> | 5 | Come, O Justice, come, O Peace: come and shape our hearts anew; come and make oppression cease: bring us all to life in you. <i>Sing out, earth and skies! sing of the God who loves you; raise your joyful cries; dance to the life around you.</i> |
| 3 | Come, O God of flashing light: twinkling star and burning sun; God of day and God of night: in your light we all are one. <i>Refrain</i> | | |

Advent Candles

As we light this first candle, we take up the hopes of people for an end to the world of pain and sufferings, and the call for justice and care to bring hope alive.

May the vision of the kingdom build our expectation and remind us to watch for what you will give. Help us to meet our friends and neighbours with understanding, our work with willingness and our responsibilities with patience as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome and Notices

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Praise to God who brings new life where it is unexpected
Praise to God who is the great source of hope
Praise to Christ who shared love wherever he went
Praise to Christ who leads us to community
Praise to the Spirit who guides our understanding
Praise to the Spirit who lights up our faith

We praise and you, Loving God ...

Advent Reflection

"Lo! He comes with clouds descending" Charles Wesley

We listen to a version from Maddy Prior with the Carnival Band

We hear the Word of God

Here we are, waiting for the revelation of God's Word.
May your words, O Lord, call out our faith.

First Reading Isaiah 64:1 - 9 - Sue Thompson

Psalm 80:1-7, 17 - 19

Hear our cry, great Shepherd
who led the early church as a flock.
Great God of the covenant shine on your people now.
Stir yourself to action and come as our salvation.

***Restore us, O God
and let your face shine on us,
for that is salvation.***

How much longer will we feel
as if you are angry with us
and rejecting our prayers?
We are fed on sorrow and have only tears for our thirst.
Our neighbours contend for our property
and your enemies treat us with scorn.

***Restore us, O God Almighty
and let your face shine on us,
for that is salvation.***

Let your reviving hand rest on us
that we may be strong for you
and never turn from your grace.
***Restore us, O Lord God Almighty
and let your face shine on us,
for that is salvation.***

Gospel Mark 13:24 - 37 - Anne Feehan

Here we are, called to God's service,
Let it be with us according to your word.

Proclamation and silent reflection

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| | <u>We respond to the Word</u> | |
| Hymn | <i>"Comfort, comfort, all my people"</i> | 647 |
| | <i>Comfort, comfort all my people with the comfort of my Word, Speak it tender to my people all your sins are taken away.</i> | |

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| 1 Though your tears be rivers running, though your tears be an ocean full, though you cry with the hurt of living: Comfort, comfort. Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain shall be low, every rough place will be smoother: comfort, comfort. <i>Refrain</i> | 2 Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light, though your eyes see pain and sorrow: comfort, comfort. Every night will have its morning, every pain will have an end, every burden will be lightened: comfort, comfort. <i>Refrain</i> |
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Christmas Bowl Moment

Offering

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 sin 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.*

| Hymn | | <u>We are sent to the World</u> | |
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| "Come to be our hope" | | 688 | |
| 1 | Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set our people free. From oppression, come, release us, you alone give liberty. Come release from every prison those who suffer in our land. In your love we find the reason still to live and understand. | 2 | Come to build your new creation; show the way of servanthood; give new life to every nation, changing evil into good. Come and open our tomorrow for a kingdom, now so near. Take away all human sorrow, give us hope against our fear. |

Commissioning

In the face of darkness, live as people of light
We go, knowing that the coming of love is possible
In the face of despair, live as people of joy
We go, knowing that hope is real
In the face of ordinary days, live as extraordinary people
***We go to live as the people of God,
making faith come alive in our every action***

Blessing and Dismissal

May God give you eyes to see the blooming of love
May Christ open you ears to the words of faith
And may the Spirit give you the words of hope.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

| Benediction | | "May light come into your eyes" | | 780 | |
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| | | May light come into your eyes, may hope spring up in your heart, may peace guide all of your mind, and keep you in God and keep you in God. | | | |

*As we gather to pray, to sing and to listen
may a spirit of anticipation and hope fill us.*