

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 29 November 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**The merest hint of green**



**(Mark 13:28)**

**Music**                    *People look East*

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

As stars to the maker  
**We are the work of God's hands**

As plants to the gardener  
**We are the work of God's hands**

As clay to the potter  
**We are the work of God's hands**

Be brave  
Be honest  
**Be awake to integrity**

Be strong  
Be gentle  
**Be awake to justice**

Be joyful  
Be humble  
**Be awake to holiness**

Be steady  
Be hopeful  
**Be awake to love**

**Hymn 5**      O Lord, our Lord throughout the earth

O Lord, our lord, throughout the earth  
how glorious is your name,  
and glorious too where unseen heavens  
your majesty proclaim.  
On infant lips, in children's song  
a strong defence you raise  
to counter enemy and threat,  
and foil the rebel's ways.

When I look up and see the stars  
which your own fingers made,  
and wonder at the moon and stars,  
each perfectly displayed;  
then I must ask, 'Why do you care?  
Why love humanity?  
And why keep every mortal name  
fixed in your memory?'

Yet such as us you made and meant  
just less than gods to be;  
with honour and with glory, Lord,  
you crowned humanity.  
And then dominion you bestowed  
for all made by your hand,  
all sheep and cattle, birds and fish  
that move through sea or land.

O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth  
how glorious is your name!

Psalm 8 John Bell

**Opening Prayer**

Spill the Beans

Come, all ye faithful!  
The world turns and we find our space in it.  
The sun and the moon brighten short days and the long nights.  
**Light in the darkness. Hope for the world.**

We turn to the North, to our home spread before us.  
Where the pandemic divides us into haves and have-nots,  
where deep loneliness sits alongside community,  
where poverty rises: seen and unseen.  
**We are a part of this**

We turn to the West, to the structures of power.  
Where the currency of climate is too high a price for 'progress',  
where belonging means gender and skin colour and borders,  
where wagers of war deny brokers of peace.

**We are a part of this**

We turn to the South, to the home of the poorest.  
Where healthcare and water and schooling are denied,  
where communities flee homelands threatened by climate and conflict,  
where locusts plague harvests and households and hope.

**We are a part of this**

We turn to the East, to the child in the stable.  
Where an outcast young mother carried hope for the world,  
where light shone in the darkness for those weary of waiting,  
where God came among us, before us, behind us.

**We are a part of this**

In the here and the now, in the when and not-yet,  
We are one with our neighbours nearby and afar.  
We are holders of hope, bearers of the promise  
**the Kingdom of God, incarnate through us.**

Absolution

May the God of the whole world,  
North, South, East and West,  
**renew us in extravagant love,  
radical hope and abundant joy. Amen**

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Place the cloth, prepare the table;  
look for hope  
and light the candle.  
Sun will fade out, moon cloud over,  
stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble.

(Light Candle)

Ring the bells, bring out the cradle;  
look for peace birthed in the stable.

Sing the songs, through starshine's sparkle;  
look for love: in manger's marvel.

Deck the halls and 'hark!' with angels—  
look for joy: Come, all you faithful!

## Hymn 284 (verse 1)

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,  
never consumed, though it burns through the years;  
dim in the daylight of power and privilege –  
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Richard Leach

## An Agent of Hope – The Rock Trust

### Hymn 291 When out of poverty is born

On the first Sunday of Advent, churches around the UK will sing together in solidarity with the world's poorest. We help to create a national act of worship, singing the Christian Aid Carol:

When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day,

'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.  
Be blest; prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love  
the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still:  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,  
the world turned upside down,  
and in the strength of woman's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call,  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

Kathy Galloway.

## Scripture Readings

Mark 13: 24 – 37 (The Message)

Following those hard times,  
'Sun will fade out, moon cloud over,  
Stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble.'

And then they'll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky – no one will miss it! He'll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner.

And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don't take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too – these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.

But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable. It's like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all:  
Stay at your post. Keep watch.

### 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.  
For in him you have been enriched in every way – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.  
Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

### **Hymn 273** O come, O come Emmanuel

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 thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, though Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

18<sup>th</sup> century, based on ancient Advent Antiphons  
Translated John Mason Neale

## Reflection

### Prayers for Others and the Lord's Prayer

Lord in your mercy  
**Response: Hear our prayer**

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

### Blessing and Sending

We are looking for God in our world.  
May we see what God wants us to see.

We are looking for God in our lives.  
May we be who God wants us to be.

And may God our Shepherd, Protector, Awakener, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you through these Advent days. Amen.

### Sung Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

**Organ Music**    Plein Jeu et Fugue (Messe pour les Couvents)

François Couperin

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Katie McNeill

Scripture Reading: Corrina Cazalet

Introduction to Rock Trust: Jimmy Campbell

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

Vocal ensemble: Frances Cooper, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel

Pianist: Tim Cooper

Flute: Philippa Burgess

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

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