

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

**Advent – what are you waiting for?**



Call to Worship: Psalm 90

Turn to us, Almighty God!  
**come and save your people**  
Come and save this grapevine that you planted  
**this young vine you made grow so strong!**  
Preserve and protect the people you have chosen  
**the nation you made so strong**  
Bring us back, Lord God Almighty  
**Show us your mercy and we will be saved**

**Hymn 273** O come, O come Immanuel

Lighting of Advent Candle

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you  
**and also with you**  
*(Let us share peace with one another)*

Prayer

**Hymn 478** Behold the amazing gift of love

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah chapter 64, verses 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**Anthem** Long ago, prophets knew *from* Piae Cantiones 1582 arr. Malcolm Archer

**Scripture Reading:** Mark, chapter 13, verses 24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory.  
Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the  
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth  
its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking  
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not

pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

**Hymn 358** The great love of God is revealed in the Son

**Sermon:** Advent – what are you waiting for?

**Hymn 475** Christ is coming

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 477** Lo, he comes with clouds descending

**Blessing**

**Worship leader: Rev Alistair Keil**

**Reader: Lorna Cammock**

**Prayers of the people: Nick and Sally Evans**

**Musician: Jamie Turnbull**

**St Andrew’s & St George’s West Church of Scotland Edinburgh**

**Charity SC008990**

**[www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)**