



First Sunday of Advent
November 29th 2020
Stay awake!



GATHERING

Announcements

Introduction

Call to Worship

In the name of God our Father and Mother,
In the name of the Son who calls us to follow,
In the name of the Holy Spirit,

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Advent Litany

Soon, soon,
The Saviour of the world will be born.

Born into the arms of a young woman.
Born into the rough hands of a carpenter.

***Soon, soon,
The Saviour of the world will be born.***

Born lowly to raise the humble,
Born strong to scatter the proud.
Born to feed the hungry,
Born to set the prisoners free.

***Soon, soon,
The Saviour of the world will be born.***

Each day, each night,
We look to your coming.
Each day, each night,
We wait for you.
We open our lives
To prepare a welcome.
We make in our hearts
A cradle for you.

Soon, soon,

The Saviour of the world will be born.

Lighting the candle of Hope

...May this circle of green leaves
which has no beginning and no end,
be a sign of God's never-ending love for us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

As we light these candles each week,
may our hearts be stirred with hope

and expectation at the coming of Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

May he find us awake and watchful,
praying at all times,
our lives marked by deeds of love and justice.

Come Lord Jesus. Amen

Hymn: TIS 272 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Prayer of reconciliation

Colin Bradford

Words of assurance:

Behold! God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth! Do you not see it? Do you not know that God is already with you, all around you, and loves you? God is about to do something new in you. Be present with God, who is already present with you !

Thanks be to God!

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace with your immediate neighbours

Christmas Bowl 2020 Advent 1: Girls' education in Afghanistan

Colin Bradford

HEARING THE WORD

The Bible Readings

First reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Jill McNamara

64 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

² As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷ No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to^[b] our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second reading

Hazel Ruskin

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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.

²⁸ “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.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you Lord Christ.

Reflection *Stay awake!*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn: Into the darkness of this world

Let's Give: Our Offerings

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him, above ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

Offertory prayer:

Prayers of the people

Jane Ann Tainsh

When the one who prays says, ‘**Come, O God to renew your world,**’ you are invited to respond, ‘**bringing hope and wholeness.**’

The 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 sins,
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.*

SENDING OUT

Hymn: TIS 268 Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Blessing:

Come, let us head into this week with our eyes peeled,
to notice the signs of God’s coming,
the signs of hope.

And let us ourselves be signs of hope

In the name of Christ

May God surprise and delight us,
May Christ inspire us,
May the Spirit fill our hearts with song.

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

Choral Blessing: TIS 779 May the feet of God walk with you

Musical Postlude

Organist:

John Hughes

