

# **St Stephen's, Canonbury**

## **Morning Worship for Advent 2020**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,  
**And also with you.**

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.  
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.  
May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,  
even as we put our hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)

**We gather as the people of God  
Children of our Heavenly Father,  
Who live in hope and expectation,  
And long for the day of the Lord,  
When Jesus shall come to bring his kingdom to completion.  
Renew our hope,  
That we may live each day with our eyes fixed on the heavens  
From where Jesus will come with his holy angels  
To gather the faithful to his side.  
May our voices join with the song of saints and angels as we cry,  
'Come Lord Jesus, come.' Amen**

Lighting of Advent candles

Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
In that light, we confess our sins.

**Merciful God,  
We confess to you our feeble trust and frail hope,  
Our lack of faith and expectation,  
Our complacency and doubt that Jesus will return.  
Forgive us and renew us,  
That we may live each day with eyes and hearts  
Open to see him and receive him  
When he comes on the clouds of heaven;  
In his precious name we pray. Amen**

May God forgive us and renew us  
And may we be ready on the great day of the Lord  
To take our place amongst his saints for all eternity. **Amen**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
Who created the earth and, in the fullness of time,  
Sent your son to live amongst us.  
Born of Mary, incarnate and holy,  
Crucified and risen, ascended and glorified,  
He calls us to look for his coming again  
To bring his kingdom to completion.  
Open the eyes of your church  
That we may be ready to receive him  
At whose name every knee shall bow.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
**Blessed be God forever.**

A SONG OF THE WILDERNESS (Isaiah 35:1,6,10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:  
the desert shall burst into song.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord:  
the splendour of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands:  
make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, be strong, fear not:  
your God is coming in judgement to save you.  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened:  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
Then the lame shall leap like the deer:  
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing for joy.  
For waters shall spring up in the wilderness:  
and streams flow in the desert.  
The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing:  
crowned with everlasting joy.  
They shall obtain joy and gladness:  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## Creed

**We believe in God the Father,  
Who brought the universe to birth  
And from whose heart will spring  
The new heaven and earth yet to come.**

**We believe in God our Saviour,  
Immanuel, God with us,  
Whose Advent was proclaimed by angels,  
And who will come again to renew all things.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
Through whose power the Christ was conceived  
And by whose indwelling in us  
We are made children of God.**

**We believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Who was and is and is to come,  
And in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen**

## Prayers of intercession

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
As our saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## The Advent 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

## Readings and reflection

### Closing prayer

**Loving God,  
Send us out filled with Advent hope,  
That we may live each day  
In the sure expectation of Jesus coming with glory and power  
To bring his kingdom to completion.  
May we live in your Advent promise  
And share Advent hope with all we meet;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Blessing

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory.  
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be upon us and remain with us, now and always. Amen