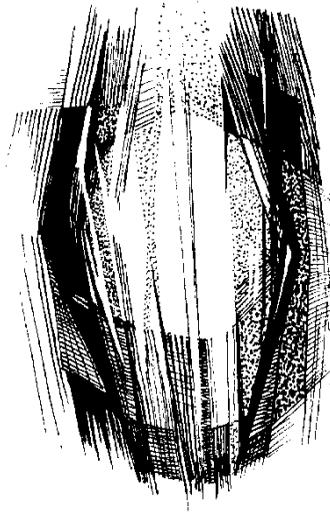


Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mark

Serving the people of Broomhill & Broomhall

THE FEAST OF GOD'S KINGDOM



A Service of Christian Hospitality for Advent:
Holy Communion for the Season
of Hope & Expectation

2 December 2012
at 10 o'clock

Welcome

Welcome and greetings, especially if you are new to St Mark's. May you soon discover what you are seeking and find companions for life's journey. This communion is more complete with you being a part of it.



To use the *Induction Loop*, please select the *T Setting* on your hearing aid. We ask that *mobile phones* and *paggers* be switched off or set to silent mode. **LARGE PRINT** versions of worship materials are available.

Before the service begins, we are all invited to share in a few moments of quietness in preparation for worship.

About Advent

Advent is one of the richest seasons in the Christian year. It is characterised by many of the tensions central to the way of faith: absence and presence; waiting and striving; struggle and hope; judgement and mercy; poverty and plenty; blindness and sight.

Each in its own way expresses a deep yearning, a sacred hunger, for God's reign of justice tempered by love and love realized through wholesome relating and wholehearted caring for friend and stranger alike. It is this hunger that fuels our faith and strengthens our resolve to be channels through which what is hoped for, through God's grace, can be realised.

Preparing for worship

Hope
is adrenaline for the soul:
without it,
we are victims of circumstances
beyond our control;
with it,
we can begin to change
the world.

Lord of all hopefulness,
be born in us this day.

Gathering

Voluntary: Advent Chorale Preludes JS Bach (1685 - 1750)

Welcome

Advent Cry

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*From the Great O Antiphons, 12th-13th cent,
trans J M Neale (1818-66).*

Kindling the Advent Light

*The first advent candle, symbolizing our forebears of faith
and all who search in hope for the coming of God's kingdom, is lit.*

God of our longing,
God of our hoping:
we struggle to acknowledge our need of you.

We remember our forebears of faith,
who sensed their incompleteness
and searched for you beyond safe places.

We are following their path.

When we think ourselves sufficient,
break us open to your truth.

God in our longing,
God in our hoping:
Eagerly, we seek you.

Jen Ryder.

Hymn

COME, THOU long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley (1707-88).
Tune: Cross of Jesus.*

Prayers of Approach

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.

**EVER-LOVING GOD,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus said:
Above all, strive for God's reign
of justice and peace.

Matthew 6.33.

We do not always live up to our calling.

Let us acknowledge
our wrongdoings and failures,
seeking God's forgiveness.

Pause for reflection.

The choir sings 'The Kyries' – an ancient penitential rite.

**God of Compassion,
when our hearts were hardened
to the call of Christ
or to the cries of the needy,
when our words and actions
caused division
or thwarted peace;
set us free from past wrongs
and liberate us for the service of your Son. Amen.**

May God forgive you,
Christ renew you
and the Spirit enable you
to grow in love. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom. *(please remain standing)*

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
still shakes the foundations of the world:
may we so wait for your coming
with eagerness and hope
that we embrace without terror
the labour pangs of the new age,
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Janet Morley.

Journeying together in Faith

As young members prepare to leave for their groups, a prayer is offered.

**May God guide each of us,
whatever our age or experience,
in the way of Christ –
the love of God go with you. Amen.**

Children, teenagers and group leaders set off.

Attending

Reading – Jeremiah 33. 14 – 16, read by Robin Saunders

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

THE DAYS are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Let us listen for the word of the Lord.

Pause for reflection.

Benedictus – A Song of Liberation

Luke 1 vv.68-79,
adapted by A J McCallen

Eve Saunders



PRAISE THE LORD, praise the Lord,

Refrain

God has sent a Saviour who is strong,
and he will set us free.

Refrain

He promised this to Abraham so long ago,
and he has kept his word.
He promised he would make us free from fear and safe from harm;
then we could live in peace with him for ever.

Refrain

John the Baptist walked before the Lord:
He prepared the way for him to go.
He was the man who showed us Christ had come –
come to forgive us all our sins.

Refrain

God is gentle, God is kind, he leads us from the dark,
so that the brightness of his light can shine upon us all day long
and guide us on the way of peace.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

Gospel – Luke 21. 25 – 36.

The good news is proclaimed from the heart of the worshipping community.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS SAID, ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Rev'd Julie Upton.

Julie is Team Rector of the Parish of Sheffield Manor.

Followed by a period of silence for reflection.

Responding

Affirmation

Let us give voice to our convictions
and substance to our hopes. *(please stand)*

**WE BELIEVE that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.
We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life
and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

Iona Community.

Prayers of Solidarity & Concern, led by Briony Tayler

The following chant is sung at the beginning and end of the intercessions.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Taizé Community.

One of these or another set of biddings and responses is used.

Your kingdom come.
Your will be done.

God of our yearning.
We seek you.

God of justice, truth and love.
**Inspire us with your Spirit
to let your Kingdom come. Amen.**

Ever-beckoning God.
**We seek your presence
and will serve you. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Christ is our peace,
creating in himself a new humanity,
reconciling all people to one another and to God. *cf Ephesians 2.14-16.*

We meet in Christ's name and share in his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

*We share Christ's peace with one another, especially with those who
are unfamiliar or from whom we are estranged.*

Hymn

A collection is taken for the ministry of St Mark's. If you are a taxpayer and are not currently a member of the church's planned giving scheme, please place your gift in one of the envelopes provided, writing your name and address on the front. Thank you.

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, thou 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice ...

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice ...

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice ...

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice ...

13th cent; trans from the Latin by John M Neale (1818-66).

Tune: Veni Emmanuel.

Abiding

Preparation

Tokens of our response to God, bread and wine, and the collection, are offered.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread, made by many people's work,
from an unjust world where some have plenty
and most go hungry.**

At this table all are fed, and no-one is turned away.

Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring wine, made by many people's work,
from an unjust world where some have leisure
and most struggle to survive.**

At this table all share the cup of pain and celebration
and no-one is denied.

Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Our witness against hunger,
our cry against injustice,
and our hope for a world where God is fully known
and every child is fed.**

Thanks be to God.

Brian Wren.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray. *(please sit or kneel)*

God of our longing,
God of our hoping,
it is good and right to praise you.

From the time of our forebears
you have journeyed with those who seek you
in openness and trust.

You inspired prophets to pursue justice –
to challenge the mighty
and liberate the oppressed.

Through John the baptizer
you taught us to lament our wrongdoings
and return to the way of forgiveness.

In Mary, the mother of faith,
you draw us into your passion
and reveal your peace.

It is, indeed, good and right to praise you,
in the company of all, in every age,
who have discerned your promises
and responded to your call.

Led by the choir.

**Holy, holy, holy,
Lord, God of hosts
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee,
O Lord most high. Amen.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
in the highest.**

Above all, we give you thanks
for coming among us in Jesus Christ.
In him, we see the person you long for us to be,
through him, we feed on your wisdom and truth,
with him, we embrace your kingdom causes.

And now, in obedience to his command,
it is our duty and our joy,
to remember the night he gave himself up
and was handed over to death.

One final time, in the company of his own,
Jesus took bread,
blessed it in God's holy name,
broke it and offered it to them, saying:
'This is my body' –
my vision, my life –
'I entrust it to you.'

Later, he took a cup of wine,
gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying:
'This is our new relationship with God,
sealed with my blood.
This is how you will remember me.'

God of our longing,
God of our hoping,
breathe your life-giving Spirit
into this bread and wine
that all who partake of this communion
may feed on Christ and taste his sacred hunger
for a world renewed by your promises
and fulfilled through your love. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer & Communion

As we look for the coming of the Kingdom,
Lord, teach us to 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 for ever. Amen.

The bread is broken.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Words of invitation follow.

This is the table not of the Church,
but of the Lord.
It has been made ready for those who love him
and who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;
you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.
Come, not because I invite you:
it is our Lord;
and it is his will that those who seek him
should meet him here.

Everyone is invited to share in the communion through receiving the bread and wine or if preferred, a prayer of blessing. Please approach the altar rail with those around you. Gluten-free bread rolls are used.

During administration, the choir will sing a setting of the 'Agnus Dei' (Lamb of God) followed by the anthem, 'Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts,' by Henry Purcell (1659-95).

At the conclusion, silence is shared.

Venturing

Prayers of Commitment

Let us pray.

**GRANT US GRACE, O God,
to bear faith's flame to darkest places –
to see through your eyes of compassion,
to speak your words of justice and peace,
to embody your forgiveness –
that what we hope for,
long for, strive for,
may come a little closer,
bringing healing in its wings;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Blessing

Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads you.
Listen, as the child of Peace cries to you.
Rejoice, as the Love of God embraces you.
Go now in Hope, Peace and Love.

Richard Becher.

And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Sacred Spirit,
be among you, and all whom you love,
both living and departed, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

LO, HE COMES with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley (1707-88), John Cennick (1718-55)
& Martin Madan (1726-90).
Tune: Helmsley.*

Advent Invocation (*please face the back of church*)

God of our longing,
God of our hoping:
Eagerly we seek you.

In our time and throughout eternity:
May your kingdom come.

In this place and around the world:
May your kingdom come.

Through our lives and for all people:
May your kingdom come.

May your kingdom come quickly:
And the reign of Christ increase.

Organ voluntary: Toccata Percy Fletcher (1879 - 1932)



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