

**Heart of Westmorland Mission Community**

**Service of Lessons  
and Carols  
for Advent**

The Heart of Westmorland  
**MISSION**  
Community

## Advent Carol Service 2020

### **Bidding Prayer**

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity as also for the day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Our Father, **who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name;**  
**thy kingdom come;**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive them that trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation;**  
**but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.

All **Amen.**

## **PART 1: THE PATRIARCHS**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*During which the Choir will sing the Advent Wreath Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent by Malcolm Archer*

*Blessed are you, Sovereign God, God of our ancestors  
To be praise and glory for ever  
You called the Patriarchs to live by the light of faith  
And to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment  
May we be obedient to your call  
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,  
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
For you are our light and our salvation  
Blessed be God for ever.*

**Carol:** Hills of the North, rejoice,

### **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**

## **First Reading: Genesis 17.1-8 (Hannah)**

*A reading from Genesis: God's covenant with Abraham*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Sapientia

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the Most High,  
filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the  
earth; come and teach us the way of truth.*

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

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## **PART 2: THE PROPHETS**

### **Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### **Second Reading: Exodus 19.1-8 (Simon)**

*A reading from the book of Exodus: the Covenant between God and his people.*

At the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.'

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Adonai (arr. Cleobury)

*O Lord of Lords, and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai:  
come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.*

## **EXILE**

**Carol:** O Come O Come Emmanuel

### **Third Reading: Isaiah 42.1-7 (Annabel)**

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah: God's Messiah will end the people's exile and extend his Covenant to the whole world.*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Radix Jesse (arr. Cleobury)  
*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations,  
kings keep silent before you for whom the nations  
long: come and save us and delay no longer.*

**Carol:** Come, thou long-expected Jesus

**Fourth Reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34 (John)**

*A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah: God promises a new covenant, and to write the law on his people's hearts.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will

put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Oriens (arr. Cleobury)

*O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness:*

*come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death.*

**Carol:** Longing for light

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## **PART 3: THE FORERUNNER**

### **Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the  
just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **Sixth Reading: Mark 1.1-8 (Stephen)**

*A reading from the Gospel of Mark: God's people are recalled to their covenant and their call to be a light to the nations.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness  
of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside  
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,

and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Clavis David

*O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison, and break down the walls of death*

**Carol:** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

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## **PART 4: THE GOD-BEARER**

### **Collect**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother  
of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **Sixth Reading: Luke 1:26-33 (Helen)**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:  
Blessed Mary bears the Son of God.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Thanks be to God.

Choir: Antiphon: O Rex gentium

*O King of the Nations, you alone can fulfil their desires; cornerstone, binding all together: come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth.*

**Carol:** The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

## **Seventh Reading: Colossians 1.13-20 (Stewart)**

*A reading from St Paul's letter to the Colossians: God's saving covenant renewed for all creation.*

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: O Emmanuel (arr. Cleobury)

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,  
hope of the nations and their saviour:  
come and save us, O Lord our God.*

**Carol:** Lo! he comes with clouds descending

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

All **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,

scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him  
when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Exit:** Meditation on Veni Emmanuel, played by David  
Jones