



Advent 1 Service OF Morning Prayer

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." **Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**

Source of all light send your Son Jesus Christ to shine in our dark world.
Help us to prepare our hearts to receive him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning

**Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, Keep me burning till the break of day
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna Sing hosanna to the Servant King
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna Sing hosanna, let us sing**

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, Give me joy in my heart, I pray
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, Keep me praising till the break of day
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the Servant King
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, let us sing**

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving, Give me peace in my heart, I pray
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving, Keep me loving till the break of day
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the Servant King
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna. Sing hosanna, let us sing**

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night,
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Will you not give us life again, **so that your people may rejoice in you?**
Show us your mercy, O God, **and grant us your salvation.**
Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory forever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, so that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine. Let your face shine.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us.**

**Shepherd of our hearts, leader of your flock, listen to our prayer.
Shine your loving light, stir up all your might. Come and help your chosen people.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine. Let your face shine.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us.**

**Maker of the earth, Maker of the skies, comfort those who mourn,
every aching heart, people torn apart. Come and help your chosen people.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine. Let your face shine.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us.**

**Strengthen all who stand next to your right hand. Help your chosen people.
We will walk with you as you call us to. Shepherd us into your pasture.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine. Let your face shine.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us.**

Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Now it is time to awake out of sleep, **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.** Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed, **for the night is far spent.** Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, **for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel CP 89

***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 you, O Israel.***

***O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of know-ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

***O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

*O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
that trust your might-y power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Key of Da-vid, come, and o-pen wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Day-spring from on high and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloom-y clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of human-kind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease, and be for us our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Mark 13:24-37

'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.'

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

sermon

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, **the majesty of our God.**

Strengthen the weary hands, **and make firm the feeble knees.**

Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement,
coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, **and the ears of the deaf unstopped;**
then shall the lame leap like a hart, **and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.**
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, **and streams in the desert;**
the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing,
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, **and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**
Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

In joyful expectation let us pray to God, our Saviour and Redeemer.

O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Head of the house of Israel, you appeared in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.
Lord Jesus, come soon.

O Branch of Jesse standing as a sign among the nations, all rulers will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

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.
Lord Jesus, come soon.

O Morning Star, bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations: come and save us, O Anointed One.
Lord Jesus, come soon.

*Please give voice to your own intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings.
Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ; the leaders of the church; the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation; those who are working for justice in the world; and the broken, that they may find God's healing.*

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Hope Is a Star VU 7

***Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.***

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

***Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.***

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

***Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.***

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

***Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.***

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

God of unveiled truth, in times of darkened sun and waning moon, lift up our hearts and waken our love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Today we pray for the PWRDF and their work with Partners in Health Malawi. Their work supports Community Health Workers by providing training and goats to increase their families' food security.

Holy goats

Support for Community Health Workers

In Malawi, a Community Health Worker (CHW) may be responsible for the health of up to 20 families, but only receives a small stipend. In partnership with PWRDF, Partners In Health Malawi will provide three goats and appropriate training to a CHW, who will in turn be able to provide food security and additional income for his or her family.

- 1 SINGLE!** Your gift of \$80 covers one goat for a CHW.
- 2 DOUBLE!** Your gift of \$125 covers two goats for a CHW.
- 3 TRIPLE PLAY!** Your gift of \$170 covers all three goats for a CHW.

Partners in Health Malawi photo

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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.

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God, source of all being, eternal word and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. Amen.

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus CP 88

***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 forever: 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.***

Readings for next Sunday – December 6, 2020

Advent 2

The Book of Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

The Second Letter of Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8