

First Sunday in Advent

3rd December 2023

Led by Fiona Bennett & Paul Whittle



*Waiting for the
Revealing
by
Jan Richardson*

Welcome

Call to worship:

One: Waiting for Peace

ALL: We look to God's Promise

One: Waiting for Hope

ALL: We seek for God's Saviour

One: Waiting for Love

ALL: We work with God's Spirit

ALL: Holy Three-in-One we gather to worship you.

Hymn: O come o come CH4 273

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, 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! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*18th century, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866).
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Prayer

One: By day and by night,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

One: In our strength & fragility,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

One: In our hope & fear,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

We unite our prayers together in the Jesus prayer or Lord's prayer...

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of all,

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of
Justice and Love
sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory
of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

First Advent Candle

One: This is a candle for Hope.
We light this candle for all people
Struggling to be bearers of Hope
In a troubled world.
ALL: GOD AS WE WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE
GIVE LIGHT, GIVE HOPE.

Story of Hope

One: May this story be a candle
ALL: shining out Hope in our world.

Hymn: Christmas is coming CH4 282

'Christmas is coming!',
the Church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.
'Christmas is coming!',
the Church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

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Readings:

Isaiah 64:1-9

64O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— 2as 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! 3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4From 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. 5You 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.

6We 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. 7There 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. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.
27Then 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. 29So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not
pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

Reflection by Rev Paul Whittle Synod Moderator

Meditation by Miriam Davidson

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561. Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
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Communion

Hymn: Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This God's table it's not yours or mine
Come to table of grace.

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Celebrant: We unite in prayer with followers of Jesus since the earliest times as we say:
God be with you
ALL: And with your spirit

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts
ALL: We lift them to God
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Celebrant: Holy Loving God,
For the universe you have crafted in all its variety and mystery
ALL: We praise and thank you
Celebrant: For the gift of Christ Jesus; vulnerable healer & guide
ALL: We praise and thank you
Celebrant: For your Salvation; love crucified and resurrected.
ALL: We praise and thank you
Celebrant: With people everywhere, past present and yet to come
ALL: We praise and thank you

Song: This is the body of Christ CH4 799

Broken that we might be whole.
This cup as promised by God,
True to God's Word,
Cradles our Lord
Food the good of us all.

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Closing Response

Celebrant: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.
ALL: We go to share his life and love.

Notices

Hymn: Longing for light CH4 543

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.
 Make us your bread, broken for others,
 shared until all are fed.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us your building, sheltering others,
 walls made of living stone.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
 many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 making your kingdom come.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

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Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 3 rd Dec	11am	AUC & Online	Fiona is leading and Paul Whittle (Synod Moderator) is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 3 rd Dec	12 noon	Online	
Christmas Making	Sun 3 rd Dec	12.30-3pm	AUC (Sanctuary)	Making decorations for the AUC tree with snacks, chat and songs.
AUC Book Group: 'The Church Cracked Open'	Mon 4 th Dec	7.30-9pm	Online	Contact David Townsend on david.townsend@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link

Contextual Bible Study	Weds 6 th Dec	7.30-8.30p m	Online	Advent 3 John 1:6-8,19-28 JR Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thurs 7 th Dec	12 noon - 1pm	Online	Advent 3 John 1:6-8,19-28 JR Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Our Tribe Online	Thurs 7 th Dec	7.30p m	Online	This month: "Queen Jesus joins us this Advent and Christmas 2023". See below for the link – all welcome
Sunday Worship	Sun 10 th Dec	11am	AUC	Laurence is leading and Fiona is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 10 th Dec	12 noon	Online	
AUC Church Meeting (in-building)	Sun 10 th Dec	12.30-2pm	AUC (Sanctuary)	Everyone is welcome to attend Church Meeting. If you are not a church member or associate member, but would like to receive papers for the meetings in advance, please email the Church Secretary Linda (secretary@augustine.org.uk)
Legacy of slavery study group	Sun 10 th Dec	1-2pm	AUC (Iona)	All are welcome to join
TLC Youth	Sun 10 th Dec	12.30-2.30p m	AUC (Mull) and online	For those in S1 and up. TLC Youth offers space to share food, reflect on topics of life and faith and spent time with each other. For more information please contact Matt (youth@augustine.org.uk)

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196