

**West Worcester Group  
LOCKDOWN ADVENT SERVICE  
5pm, Sunday 29 November 2020**

*The service begins with informal words of welcome and introduction.*

**Hymn**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

**The Bidding Prayer and Collect**

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

The grace and peace of God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

**First Reading**

*Genesis 1:1-5*

**Second Reading**

*Isaiah 45:2-8*

**Reflective Music**

*Louis Marchand, Minuet Rondeau in B Flat Major*

**Third Reading**

*Baruch 4:36-5:9*

**Hymn**

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

**Fourth Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

**Fifth Reading**

*Luke 1:26-38*

**Hymn**

*Hark the glad sound*

## Intercessions

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength  
to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognise him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

All **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 those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*Lo! he comes with clouds descending*

## 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 among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

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