

Church Alive

Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

Advent Sunday - 29th November



(For the Zoom service:

Welcome to Zoom Church Alive.

You might like to have the following ready prepared with you for the service:

- *Drink and snack!*
- *Candle and matches/lighter*

We will meet at 11am and start the service at 11.05am. Please use MUTE on your computer at 11.05am for the service, especially wherever we are singing together, except in the sections where marked. If you'd like to say something at other times, please 'raise your hand' (you will find this in the Participants section) or type it in under 'chat' and it will appear on the screen.)

Today we begin the season of Advent in the church. The word Advent means coming. It's a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ, both as a baby at Christmas and looking ahead to Christ's second coming at the end of time. The advent prayer is 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16:22).

Opening Song: Light of the world

[Light of the World - YouTube](#)

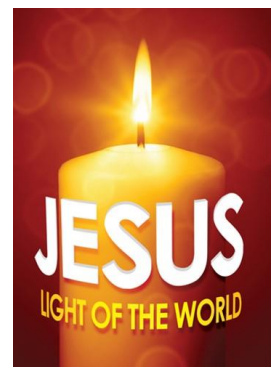
Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Opening Prayer

Each Sunday in church we light a candle on an advent wreath to help us countdown to Christmas and to remind us we are waiting for Jesus, the light of the world. Why not prepare an advent wreath to use at home for Church Alive worship? Here is a link to a Celtic advent wreath you could print, colour in and use with tea lights. [Simple Celtic Advent Wreath \(haebea.org\)](#).

Today we might light the first candle for hope.

If you are able, and it is safe to do so, you might like to light a candle at this point as well and hold up your candle as we say our prayer together.

**All: Lord, we light this candle,
to remind us that you are the light of the world.
As we gather together in spirit,
make our voices ready to sing your praise;
our hearts open to receive your love
and our minds alive to your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



We seek God's healing and forgiveness:

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

For the times we turn away from you, and ignore your will for our lives:

Father, forgive us

For the times we fail you by what we do and think and say:

Father, forgive us

For our times we let ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world around us:

Father, forgive us.

We turn our face towards you –

Make us new, O restoring God.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins,
and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving: What has brought you hope in the last week? What brings you hope in dark times?

Bible Reading – Mark 13:24-end (Good News Bible)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ “In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, ²⁵ the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. ²⁶ Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ “Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When its branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to begin. ³⁰ Remember that all these things will happen before the people now living have all died. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

No One Knows the Day or Hour

³² “No one knows, however, when that day or hour will come—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the Father knows. ³³ Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵ Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming—it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. ³⁷ What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!”

On Zoom - Talk

At Home - please use the Picture Reflection, Bible Study and All Age Activity on the separate sheet.

Song: Come light of the world

[Come Light Of The World - YouTube](#)

Prayers

(On zoom - We will play a very short piece of music, during which you can add your prayers to the chat and then they will be included in the prayer time).

Today we might pray for:

Our keeping of advent that our understanding of God's love for us may grow and our love for God grow in response.

To be awake to God's work in our lives and local community and for God to show us how we can work with him to build his kingdom of love and peace.

For those for whom hope seems dim.

For all those anxious about the changes in restrictions.

Our friends and families

Those we know who are sick or who need our prayers at this time.

All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**All: 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.**

Song: All over the world the Spirit is moving
[All Over the World \(The Spirit Is Moving - YouTube\)](#)

Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

**We have been called,
to be renewed in the name of the one who is love.
Even in the darkest night,
even when there is only one small candle lit,
your power and love restore us.
Let your light shine on us as we go from here,
so that we may be warmed and strengthened
to light your light all around.**

And the blessing...

Amen.

The Peace

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen**

(On zoom - We share the peace with each other using sign language

Fellowship time – unmute. We will go around the group so that everyone has a chance to let us know how they are and any news they want to share.)