

Church Alive

Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

Advent 3 – Sunday 13th December 2020



(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 continue the season of Advent in the church. The 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).

We have been lighting the Advent wreath in church and some of you may have been creative and made an Advent wreath to use at home – if so have that ready – if not and you have a single candle that you can safely light that is ok too [do not worry if you do not have a candle] we will be saying our candle prayer after our Opening Song and we can all join in the words of the songs and prayers!

While we sing why not type into the 'chat' area what the first two candles of Advent represent?

Opening Song: 'Come to set us free' <https://youtu.be/jGWq-enB0lw>

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.

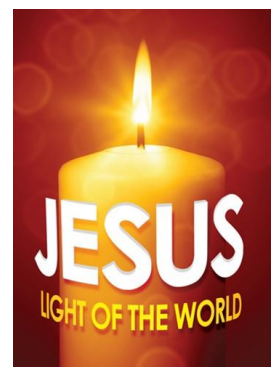
There are still 12 days till Christmas so here is a link to a Celtic advent wreath you could print, colour in and use with tea lights. [Simple Celtic Advent Wreath \(haebea.org\)](http://haebea.org).

Today we light the 3rd candle which is for 'Joy' – did you remember the 1st and 2nd candles correctly?

As well as the joy of knowing Jesus and of looking forward to celebrating his birth again soon, today we also remember Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist.

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.
And today we light it for 'joy'
And give thanks for the life of John the Baptist.
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.**



**John the Baptist tell us that God wants to forgive, for us to ‘repent’ and change for the better our behaviour towards others, how we work and how we live, to prepare our hearts for Jesus:
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.

Creator of light and darkness, we so often chase shadows and fail to walk in the light:

Father, forgive us

We are sorry for all the wrong things we have done and said that have caused darkness for others:

Father, forgive us

For the times we have turned away from the light you wish to shine into our lives:

Father, forgive us.

**We lift our faces towards you – for you are the Light that is coming to drive away all darkness
Shine around and within us O Lord. Lead us forward in hope and faith and drive away the shadows**

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: either my unmuting and speaking, or by writing in the ‘chat’ area, let’s see how many different forms of light can we think of – which forms of light bring you the most joy?

Bible Reading – John 1: 6-8; 19-28 (Good News Bible) – read by Paul with Fred

God sent his messenger, a man named John,
who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe.
He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.

The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, “Who are you?”
John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: “I am not the Messiah.”

“Who are you, then?” they asked. “Are you Elijah?”

“No, I am not,” John answered. “Are you the Prophet?” they asked. “No,” he replied.

“Then tell us who you are,” they said.

“We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah:

“I am ‘the voice of someone shouting in the desert:
Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!’”

The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John,
“If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?”
John answered, “I baptize with water, but among you stands the one you do not know.
He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals.”
All this happened in Bethany on the east side of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

On Zoom - Talk by Vicky

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

If you have been at the zoom service do still take a look at the resource page – there's plenty to explore and think about as the week moves on in the Bible Study and the Activity includes a Word Search!

Song: 'Christ be our Light' <https://youtu.be/ndpx52o1xA>

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:

That our this advent and beyond we and all our family and friends, even the whole world, will come to know the joy that comes from being in a relationship with Jesus – as brother, shepherd, master, friend.

To continue to stay alert to God's work in our lives and the local community and for God to show us how we can work with him to usher in His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven with hope, peace and joy!

That the Christmas Trees and Crib Scene will lift hearts and bring happiness

For those for whom hope seems dim that the light of Christ will bring comfort in the dark times

Thank you for the vaccine and prayers that people will remain careful that we might live our loves safely

Those we know who are sick or who need our prayers at this time and all who are sad because a loved one has died, that God will hold them in his loving care.

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: 'Sent by the Lord am I' <https://youtu.be/VqI2RTgCR2U>

Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

**Gathered in, Lord,
we have been nurtured by your Spirit of Life
Now, as we are sent out,
we go in the assurance that your Word lasts for ever,
and your promises are true,
Let the lowly be lifted up. Let the hungry be fed.
Let the mighty listen:
God, who is merciful, hears all.
Come, let us go in the blessed joy of God's kindness.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

A blessing...

*May the blessing of the God of hope,
And of the Son of peace
And the joy of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all
Evermore
Amen*

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.)