

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 13th December 2020

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

This act of worship has been prepared to allow us to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it.

We thank all the team involved in creating and distributing this service, and praise God for his unchanging character and unfailing love.

This order of service is for you to use as you are able: some of you may wish simply to read it, whether silently or aloud. Others may wish to listen, and even join in with the singing: just click on the links.

If you want to join in the whole service, follow the link which you'll find on our website: www.stmungos.freeuk.com or full video https://youtu.be/V53qnlGZ_kl

If you would like to listen to just the sermon and a prayer, dial **01968 700121. There will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.**

INTROIT: He came down that we may have love

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/ZLLiMcxOmmE>

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah for evermore!

He came down that we may have peace...

He came down that we may have joy...

He came down that we may have power...

He came down that we may have hope...

He came down that we may have love...

Words: Anon, from Cameroon

Music: Cameroon Traditional, arrangement by Geoff Weaver

Recording from jubilate.co.uk

WELCOME to St Mungo's on this, the Third Sunday of Advent.

Let us worship God

HYMN: Of the Father's love begotten

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/chLMSiozhL8?list=PLVwVirGhpUnTCKrQmG-S48KSifa99E6dP>

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

He is found in human fashion,
death and sorrow here to know,
that the race of Adam's children
doomed by law to endless woe,
may not henceforth die and perish
in the dreadful gulf below,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts his praises sing:
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert sing,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant with high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!
evermore and evermore!
evermore and evermore!

From Corde natus ex parentis by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410)

Translated by HW Baker and JM Neale

Sung and played by ChurchFolk, from College Church in Wheaton, Illinois.

Arrangement: Erik Dewar, Ruth Newby, Caleb Wiley

PRAYER

God our Father,
we thank you that in Jesus Christ,
your light shines in the darkness
and nothing has ever been able to overcome it.
Despite hostility and rejection, hatred and evil,
your light (your grace and truth) shines into human lives.

We thank you today for the light that dawned in mercy
in the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

We praise you for the light you brought
through the life and ministry of Jesus:
good news to the poor, freedom for the captives,
sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed,
new life and hope springing up in deadened lives.

We thank you for the light you shed on our path in life:
the lamp of your word to guide our feet,
the answer to prayer that brightens our days,
the warm glow of Christian fellowship and encouragement,
the fire of your Holy Spirit kindled within us,
the living reality of Jesus among us and at work in us:
the dawn from on high which has broken upon us.

Holy God, you are light, and in you is no darkness at all.
If we say we have that real, living relationship with you
and still choose to go on living in the dark,
we're not telling the truth
and we're not living in the truth.

But if we live and walk in your light, the light of Christ,
then we share real relationship with you
and with each other,
and the blood of Jesus, your Son, cleanses us from all sin.

So we take time to confess our sins to you now,
pausing the video if we need more time....

We thank you that you are faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Nick Fawcett.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Sovereign Lord, we bless you for your prophet, John the Baptist, who testified to the truth as a burning and a shining light.

May we rejoice in that light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of your coming kingdom:
Jesus, our Saviour and our King. **Amen.**

VIDEO: Worship in the Waiting: Advent 3

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/6EosBkDvyQY>

A secret seed is rich with promised fruit,
for seeds are buried when it's time to grow.
This life begins with one seed, tiny, mute,
like treasure in a field, like yeast in dough,
a secret seed is rich with promised fruit.
We wait in darkness, wait in earth, below,
seek out the signs of life in root and shoot:
for seeds are buried when it's time to grow.
A secret seed is rich with promised fruit,
for seeds are buried when it's time to grow.

Poem: Amy Scott Robinson; voice-over: Jenny Flannagan

Animation: Richard Lyall; music: Sam Hargreaves

Created for the Worship in the Waiting series by engageworship: www.engageworship.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

Zechariah and Elizabeth were an older married couple who'd never been able to have children. Zechariah was one of God's priests and was chosen one day to burn incense in the temple, which, because there were so many priests, was probably a rare privilege. Beside the altar, the angel Gabriel unexpectedly appeared and told him not to be afraid, for God had heard his prayer.

Gabriel told him that Elizabeth was going to have a baby boy, and that they should call him John. John would grow up to be a great prophet of God. From the time of his birth, he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. His work would be to call people back to knowing God, and to get God's people ready for the coming of the Lord.

Zechariah was unsure about this news. He protested that he and his wife were both quite an age. It was so unlikely they'd have a child. So Gabriel said because he hadn't believed his message, Zechariah would be unable to say a word until it came true.

Everything happened just as the angel had said. Zechariah couldn't speak when he came out of the temple. Everyone knew that he'd seen a vision. Then, before long, Elizabeth discovered she was going to have a baby.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her.

When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John." They said to her, "But you don't have any relative with that name!" Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have.

Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote, "His name is John."

How surprised they all were! At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. The neighbours were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea.

Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he spoke God's message:

"Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.

He has provided for us a mighty Saviour,
a descendant of his servant David.

He promised through his holy prophets long ago
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the power of all those who hate us.

He said he would show mercy to our ancestors
and remember his sacred covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham
he promised to rescue us from our enemies
and allow us to serve him without fear,
so that we might be holy and righteous before him
all the days of our life.

"You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his road for him,
to tell his people that they will be saved
by having their sins forgiven.

Our God is merciful and tender.

He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us
and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death,
to guide our steps into the path of peace."

The child grew and developed in body and spirit.

He lived in the desert until the day when he appeared publicly to the people of Israel.

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Comfort and Joy

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/uJsE63PIWjU>

Hear the songs of angels rise
through dark and troubled skies:
the sound of glory.
Bringing tidings of great joy;
no sorrow can destroy
salvation's story.
To our world of grief and pain
God stepped down on Christmas Day.

*Comfort and joy! Comfort and joy!
Hope has dawned with the newborn boy.
Comfort and joy! Comfort and joy!
Come and join with the angel song! Rejoice!*

Unto us a son is born.
The light of life has dawned,
the hope of nations.
All our tears will fill his soul
yet gladly bears them all:
our great salvation.
Every sin borne at the cross,
risen now he walks with us.

Comfort and joy! Comfort and joy! ...

Soon he'll wipe our tears away
in ever brighter day,
his glory shining.
Angels fill the air once more.
'Come worship and adore!
The Lord is reigning!'
Every longing then fulfilled;
every storm forever stilled!

Comfort and joy! Comfort and joy! ...

Written by Sam & Tom Brewster; arranged by: Tom & Ruthie Brewster
Vocals: Sarah Beattie; video: Manish Patras <https://manishpatras.com>
Mixed by Dan Stirling www.danstirling.co.uk
Produced by www.joyfulnoise.uk

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES (Bill Webster)

Father God,

Thank you for all your goodness to us.

Thank you that whatever we're faced with in life, you promise to be there with us and you surround us with your love.

Lord, we all need your help every day, but this morning we bring to you particularly people in different parts of the world who urgently need it at this time.

We think of the people of **South Sudan**, whose lives have been ravaged through years of war and civil war, and now catastrophic floods. Thousands are struggling to survive in temporary camps. We pray that the emergency teams who have had to be evacuated will be able to return soon to help those most in need, so that everyone can have access to food and clean water & be protected from outbreaks of disease.

And we remember the people of **Yemen** and **Syria**, both trapped for years in vicious civil wars, with hundreds of thousands of people bereaved, made homeless and sometimes without access even to basic necessities of life. LORD, governments and politicians seem powerless to do anything about this. So we ask you to overrule our human limitations and instincts, and bring peace to these countries; and, in the longer term, as you have done elsewhere, to bring reconciliation between former enemies, so that people can rebuild their lives and live together in peace.

We also remember people and situations close to home, known to us personally, and take a moment of silence to bring them before you.

We make all these prayers, whether spoken out loud or in the silence of our hearts, in the name of Jesus, in whose words we pray together, saying:

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: Hark! The herald angels sing

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/WRZSh-rIRNM?list=PLUTsn5gOo3DGEShHZKV5vZ5WBKuaxwPi>

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing...

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing...

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788); Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arranged by Jonathan Rathbone
Played by the All Souls Orchestra, conducted by Michael Andrews*

THE BLESSING

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you. **Amen**

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Next week: A Nativity Service – "Welcome to our world"