



**All-Age Service**  
**Sunday 3 December 2017**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

*The service is led by Ben Merrell and the All Age Team*

★ We Gather Together

God in Christ has revealed his glory.  
**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.  
**O praise the name of the Lord!**

*Stand*

**Hymn**

1. Make way, make way for Christ the  
King  
in splendour arrives  
Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
Into your lives

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal  
the prisoners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance  
the blind shall see.

*Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
For the King of kings (For the King of kings)  
Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
And let His kingdom in*

3. And those who mourn with heavy  
hearts  
who weep and sigh;  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify

4. We call you now to worship Him  
as Lord of all;  
to have no gods before Him  
their thrones must fall!

*Words and Music: Graham Kendrick Copyright © 1986 Thankyou Music*

*Sit*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent,  
the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ,  
of how a saviour would be born,  
a king in the line of David.

They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely  
and bless all nations.

On Christmas day the Christ of our hope was born.  
On Good Friday the Christ of our hope died.  
On Easter day the Christ of our hope rose from the dead.  
He then ascended into heaven.  
On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again  
to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As the follower of Christ, we await his return.  
We light this candle to remember  
that as he came to us as humbly in the manger at Bethlehem  
and gave light to the world,  
so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

We light this candle to remind us to be alert  
and to watch for his return.

*The first Advent candle is lit*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence*

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:  
**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

like the dew that goes away early.  
**Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

★We Praise God Together

*Stand*

1. Great is the darkness  
That covers the earth  
Oppression, injustice and pain  
Nations are slipping  
In hopeless despair  
Though many have come in Your name  
Watching while sanity dies  
Touched by the madness and lies

2. May now Your church rise  
With power and love  
This glorious gospel proclaim  
In every nation  
Salvation will come  
To those who believe in Your name  
Help us bring light to this world  
That we might speed Your return

*Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus  
Pour out Your spirit we pray  
Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus  
Pour out Your spirit on us today*

3. Great celebrations  
On that final day  
When out of the heavens You come  
Darkness will vanish  
All sorrow will end  
And rulers will bow at Your throne  
Our great commission complete  
Then face to face we shall meet

Noel Richards/Gerald Coates, © 1992 Thankyou Music

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 on 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.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, still many thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

*Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell (b 1957)*

★We Listen To God's Word

*Sit*

**First Reading: I Corinthians 1.3-9**

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Mark 13.24-end**

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Ben Merrell

*Stand*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

*Words and Music: David J. Evans © 1986 Kingway's Thankyou Music*

Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing;  
Let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Saviour;  
The Hope of nations.

*Saviour, He can move the mountains,  
My God is Mighty to save,  
He is Mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.*

So take me as You find me,  
All my fears and failures,  
Fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow  
Everything I believe in,  
Now I surrender.

*My Saviour, He can move the mountains,  
My God is Mighty to save,  
He is Mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.*

Shine your light and let the whole world see,  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King... Jesus (x2)

*My Saviour, you can move the mountains,  
You are mighty to save,  
You are mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of Salvation,  
You rose and conquered the grave,  
Yes you conquered the grave*

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★We Affirm Our Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

O God, keep us awake to you:  
**and alive to your call.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of Your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



### **Collect**

*We pray together*  
**Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*We end by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

**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.**

## Offertory Hymn

*Stand*

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand, thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers;  
With what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words: Charles Wesley and others*

*Tune: HELMSLEY*

May God the Father, Judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



***You are invited to coffee in the South Transept after the service.***

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