



**GARROWBYBENEFICE**

Advent 2: A Service of the Word

## *Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel*

### **Introduction**

#### **Approach to God**

God, our Father, our Mother and our Shepherd.  
You come close to us when we need you,  
And you are there when we think that we don't.

**All Good and faithful God, you are beside us all the way,  
When we notice and when we don't.**

Tending and mindful, leading and feeding.  
Your eyes never stray from us.

**All Call us back again merciful God, to be with you in this hallowed time  
and space.**

Call us beyond our small notions, beyond our great dreams, to see beauty  
and potential where we haven't thought to look.

**All May these days and weeks be a true advent of new thinking, new  
experiencing, new communion with you, our loving God.**

**All Amen**

## *Hymn Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

### **Thanksgiving**

You are wise O Lord our God, in giving us waiting times.

Thank you for what we have learned in those times.

To trust while we have not yet received; to dig in and build resilience while  
we live without; to hang on tenaciously in the seeming nothingness.

Thank you for the chance to stop and question....how ready am I?

To take stock, prepare, and re-order our priorities; to keep asking in  
accordance with our confidence in you; to do the things to help the birth of  
all that we hope for.

God you too are waiting.

Thank you for waiting for us...

Waiting for our attention; whilst we are preoccupied;

Waiting for our co-operation because you believe in the work we can do;

waiting with your story to retell and retell, because we always need to hear it again.

Thank you that you waited for the right time and became one of us.

Thank you Jesus for your waiting and preparing, so that through you, we would see the life of God walking among us.

Give us wisdom in this waiting time, so that when you come again we are ready to welcome with open arms, all that you have yet to offer and teach and give.

In your name we ask it, our Friend and Saviour.

**All Amen**

## **Confession**

Dearest God,

Constant in the face of our fickleness. Covenant keeper in the face of our betrayals. Reveal to us again just how kind and forgiving you are.

**All Where we are being too hard on ourselves, help us to learn tenderness.**

When we start raking over old hurts, teach us to sooth what is sore, and to trust that you are putting us back together again.

You sit with us in all that we find hard to move past, our own failings and the failings of others which hurt us.

**All We look to you for courage and grace to forgive ourselves and forgive others.**

We look to you for the example of bearing grievance without hitting back.

**All Make us merciful as you are merciful, and generous in our warmth towards all.**

**All Amen**

## **Absolution**

May Almighty God whose love is infinite and mercy everlasting forgive your sins and welcome you back into His peace.

**All Amen**

## Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**Hymn Purify my heart**

## Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 3 1-12

### All **Glory to you O Lord**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

### All **Praise to you O Christ**

## Sermon

## **An Advent Creed**

**All We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.  
The one who is full of patience,  
who is not afraid of silence,  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,  
and who does not jostle for attention.  
We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,  
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,  
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,  
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,  
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,  
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,  
whose silence overpowered their words,  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
sometimes arriving with obvious power,  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.  
We believe in one God  
who patiently waits for us,  
and who longs for us to do the same.**

*by D. Hopwood and Sam Hargreaves*

***Hymn: I will wait for you (Based on psalm 130)***

## **Intercessions**

### **THE LORDS PRAYER**

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that 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.**

## Ending

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and 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; so that, at 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All Amen.**

We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord  
In the midst of your temple

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
And all flesh shall see it together

Show us your mercy, O Lord  
And grant us your salvation

## Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life.

**All Amen**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

**All Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

**All Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, your homes and all whom you love, now and always.

**All Amen**

**Hymn** *Come thou long expected Jesus*