

GARROWBYBENEFICE

Advent 3: A service of the Word



Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Introduction & Call to Prayer

In this season of Advent, as we gather to wait in the darkness of winter nights for Jesus our Light to come, may our hearts be filled with joy and promise.

Let us pause for a moment to let God enter into the silence of our hearts.
(Silence)

We begin our Advent Worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Light and peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Thanks be to God

We gather during this Third week of Advent to pray for the grace we need to live as people of hope. The Advent wreath symbolizes our growing hope and anticipation that the Lord Jesus may enter our lives more fully. Let us pray that this wreath may remind us to bring the light of Christ to the darkness of this world.

Heavenly Father, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Saviour, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us and upon the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendour of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Hymn: Come down O love divine

We light the 1st Advent Candle

God, we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus, into our hearts and our lives this Advent. Help us to always follow him as the light of the world.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

All Amen.

We light the 2nd Advent candle

God, we look forward to Christmas and the joy it brings. Help us to share our happiness with others during this Advent season.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

All Amen.

We light the 3rd Advent Candle

God, as Christmas draws nearer we decorate our homes in preparation for our celebration of the birthday of Jesus. Help us remember always that Jesus is the reason for our celebration.

All Lord, come and save us. Amen

God, during this Advent season we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Help us to be the kind of people you created us to be now and throughout the year.

All Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Confession

Merciful God, we are sinners who are in need of transformed hearts. Remove from us our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh, hearts of mercy.

Help us to become saints—not someone who is perfect, but a sinner who is saved by the grace of Christ, who is good and merciful, and who pardons us from our sins.

We ask you to forgive all our sins as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

All O God our Father, in choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, we have sinned against you whom we should love above all things.

We firmly intend, with the grace of your help, to avoid the temptation that leads us to wrong doing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our God.

Have mercy on us.

Amen.

Absolution

May our merciful God, giver of peace and lover of reconciliation, forgive your sins and cleanse you from all wrong doing.

All Amen

Hymn: Come be our light

Ministry of the Word

A New testament Reading: Isaiah 35 1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

say to those with fearful hearts,
 "Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
 he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
 he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
 and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
 and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,
 the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
 grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;
 it will be called the Way of Holiness;
 it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
 wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there,
 nor any ravenous beast;
 they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,

 and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
 and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

The Gospel : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11 2-11

All Glory to you O Lord

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn: On Jordan's bank

Intercessions ... ending with the Lord's Prayer

**All 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray that our Advent worship will inspire us to prepare the way of the Lord.

God our Father, you have heard our prayers. Help us to come daily into your presence to draw closer to you. May we share what we have received with others during this Holy season. And may we keep our minds and hearts on the coming of your kingdom now and always.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Blessing

May the light of Christ shine in your lives.

All Now and forever.

Loving God, We give you thanks for the blessings of this Holy Advent season.

All You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things.

We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas.

All Help us to turn toward that light in our lives.

We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name.

All May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives.

Your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever.

All Amen.

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and for evermore.

All Amen.

Hymn: Be thou my vision