



# Experience Hope

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

9am Advent Communion Service



## **Our Vision:**

To be a loving and growing community  
released and empowered to join in God's work  
of proclaiming and demonstrating the good news  
to Egham and beyond

## **Overarching Theme: Gift of Life**

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. Awaiting celebration of the gift of life through the coming of Jesus in human form.

However, this gift is not just about life continuing the same as ever or indeed only about what may or may not happen after our time on this earth.

This series (created for us by Pia Balaam) seeks to explore different facets of the gift of life - a gift of renewal and blessing seeking to transform as our relationship with God grows.

Looking at it both through the prism of the Old Testament expectation of the coming messiah and the New Testament resonating with the impact of God with us.

*If you are joining us at home, please have bread and Wine/Juice ready for our Agape Meal, as well as your Advent Wreath*

### **Organ Music**

#### **Welcome**

*You can find the latest Newsletter on our Website and Facebook Group. To keep up to date with events and news, please find us and follow us on Social Media.*

**Anthem:** Hark the glad sound! (D Thorne)  
**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,**  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the wounded soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim,  
and Heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved Name.

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
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thy welcome shall proclaim,  
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with thy beloved Name.

***Lighting of the Advent wreath***

## **Advent Sunday - Patriarchs**

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
to make his home among us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

## ***Hymn***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,**

And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,

And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

J M Neale 1818-1866

***Prayer of Confession***

**Father eternal, giver of life and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead into newness of life.**

**Amen.**

***Absolution***

May the God of love and power  
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,  
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

***Reading:*** Isaiah 61: & Galatians 5:1 **Chris Matthews**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** The Gift of Freedom **Jörg Haustein**

**Response Song:**

**I stand amazed in the presence**

Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!*

*And my song shall ever be:*

*How marvellous! How wonderful!*

*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden He prayed,  
'Not My will, but Thine':

He had no tears for His own griefs,  
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels behold Him  
And came from the world of light  
To comfort Him in the sorrows  
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them His very own;  
He bore the burden of Calvary,  
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of His love for me.

Charles Gabriel © Rodeheaver co/Word Music/Adm by Copycare.

**Intercessions:** Geoff Wickes

*These words may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers**

**For the sake of your son,**

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

***The Peace***

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace on earth to all on whom his favour rests.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*cf Luke 2.14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another the 'new' sign of peace in the building – a smile and a wave ☺ If you are able to – send someone a quick message of peace or determine to do so after the Service*

***We Remember Jesus...***

The Lord is here:

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts:

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is always right to give you thanks,

God our Creator,

loving and faithful, holy and strong.

**You made us and the whole universe,**

**and filled your world with life.**

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
**he died to save us from our sins;**  
**he rose in glory from the dead.**

You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.  
And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and proclaim  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes**  
**in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.  
**We do this to remember him.**

After the meal,  
Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood, the new promise  
of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.  
**We do this to remember him.**

Let us proclaim the great  
mystery of faith

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring  
this bread and wine, and remember  
his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts may be fed  
by Christ's body and his blood.

**Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory. Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of his kingdom  
as he has taught us.

**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.**

***Breaking of the bread***

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many,  
we are one body,  
Because we all share in one bread.**

***Invitation to Communion***

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

***Organ Music***

*(I invite you to share in an Agape Meal in your homes, as we share Communion in the building. As you do, take a moment to reflect on what you are remembering/what stood out to you in particular, then either now or later you could share this with someone else so you can encourage each other?)*

***Post Communion Prayer***

**We praise and thank you, Creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.  
Every year we celebrate your coming as Emmanuel,  
our God who is forever with us.  
And every Communion celebrates your death  
in the bread we break and the cup we share.  
Confirm our faith through these mysteries until you come in glory.  
Amen.**

*In the stillness we invite the Holy Spirit to fill us anew*

***Closing Prayers and Blessing***

### **Closing Hymn:**

**Ye that know the Lord is gracious,**

Ye for whom a corner-stone  
Stands, of God elect and precious,  
Laid that ye may build thereon,  
See that on that sure foundation  
Ye a living temple raise,  
Towers that may tell forth salvation,  
Walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed  
Each to his allotted place,  
Kings and priests, by God anointed,  
Shall ye not declare His grace?  
Ye, a royal generation,  
Tell the tidings of your birth,  
Tidings of a new creation  
To an old and weary earth.

Tell the praise of Him who called you  
Out of darkness into light,  
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,  
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:  
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,  
Strength renewed and hope restored,  
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,  
Praise and magnify the Lord!

C Alington 1872-1955

### ***Dismissal***

Go to your community (virtual or physical)  
and tell them how much the Lord has done for you  
and how he has had mercy on you.

**By the Spirit's power, we will.**

*(cf. Mark 5.19)*

## *Organ Music*

In the midst of the consumerist hum, will you take time to wait... anticipate... and prepare for Christ's Coming?

- ❖ **Practice thankfulness:** Thankfulness is the foundation for true joy. It is not gritting your teeth and choosing thankfulness. Instead, a thankful heart looks for signs of God's presence and work and chooses to celebrate it.
- ❖ **Expect the unexpected:** Jesus didn't arrive as a victor but as a baby. He didn't heal Lazarus but came when all hope was lost with a much greater prize in mind.
- ❖ **Look for the signs of His kingdom:** The wise men knew to look for Christ's arrival. They saw His arrival indirectly, as the stars announced it. Look for signs that suggest that God is about to act, so you can be a part of it.
- ❖ **Pray. Worship.** The only way to be where you need to be when you need to be there is to keep the lines of communication with God open. We open ourselves to hear His voice best when we worship and make ourselves available in prayer.

