



'Is the Messiah here?'

**Isaiah 61 v1-4 and 8-11
& 2 John 1 v 6-8 and 19-28**

A service for Service 13th December 10.00am

Call to worship

Come, let us rejoice before God.
Let us honour the name of the Most High.
God has looked on us, and brought us
to be a people of light celebrating the light.
Our souls magnify God: blessed is the name of God for ever.
Let us lift up holy hands and be glad.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Week 3- Video

Hymn StF 180 - O come, O come, Emmanuel

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, 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

*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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

Jesus, son of God and son of Mary,
you came among us, baptizing with fire and light,
calling us to the true vocation of humanity:
to reflect the glory of our creator.
We thank you for your work among us,
how you gathered, how you spoke,
how you ate and drank, how you left us your Spirit

to lift us up and hold us in the light.
We praise you, because you came to us,
and keep coming to us,
because of your great love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

We pray today for all who are downtrodden, all who are oppressed, all who know the heavy hand of marginalisation on them. God, we turn to you, remembering the words of Mary, praying that you will lift up the lowly, you will raise the voice of justice, and you will scatter oppression. May all who are oppressed be set free.

We pray that we might find rhythms of life that sustain us here. Rhythms for cultivating and renewing the earth; human community; justice; and creativity. We ask this, in joy and gratitude.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Reading 1 Isaiah 61 v1-4 and 8-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—

to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Reading 2 John 1 v 6-8 and 19-28

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders[c] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"[d]

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymn StF 175 - Light of the world

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, Let me see
Beauty that made this heart
adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my
God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days
So highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth
you created
All for love's sake became poor

*Here I am to worship...
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Here I am to worship...*

'Sightings' a reading from Iona

Message 'Is the Messiah Here?'

Prayers of Intercession followed by The Lord's Prayer

Hymn StF 362 - Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and Majesty
Manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony,
The Man who is God.
Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility
And washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty.
Bow down and worship
For this is your God,
This is your God.*

Father's pure radiance,
Perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience
To death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life,
Conquering through sacrifice,

And as they crucify
Prays: 'Father forgive.'

O what a mystery...

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
In frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
Stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne.

O what a mystery...

Closing Prayer

Gathered in, Lord, we have been nurtured by your Spirit of Life.
Now, sent out, we go in the assurance that your Word lasts for ever, and
your promises are true.
Let the lowly be lifted up.
Let the hungry be fed.
Let the mighty listen:
God, who is merciful, hears all.
Come, let us go in the blessed joy of God's kindness.
Amen.