**1st Sunday of Advent**

O Lord open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Reveal among us the light of your presence

**That we may behold your power and glory**

Opening Prayer:

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all creation

To you be praise and glory forever.

As we look for your coming among us

Open our eyes to behold your presence

And strengthen our hands to do your will

That the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Opening Hymn: 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

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.

*A moment of silence*

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.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,

and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Talk 1:

Hymn: Hark the Glad sound

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 chains of sin before Him break

The iron fetters yield

He comes to free the captive mind

Where evil thoughts control

And for the darkness of the blind

Gives light that makes them whole

He comes the broken heart to bind

The wounded soul to cure

And with the treasures of His grace

To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace

Your welcome shall proclaim

And heaven’s eternal arches ring

With Your beloved name.

Talk 2:

Prayers: (Lighting of Advent wreath)
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.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David’s city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.**

The night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armour of light.

Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.

O Lord Jesus Christ, come at evening time, with light,

and in the morning, with your glory,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

He who receives our prayers says:

Surely, I come quickly.

I am the root and offspring of David,

I am the bright and morning star.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear, for comfort and support to those who suffer.

We pray for all those who are unwell at this time, in Hospital, Hospice, Care homes

or in their own home and we pray for all who care for them.

In a moment of quiet we name those we care for in our hearts….

We also remember all those who are bereaved bring them your comfort O Lord we pray. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who are afraid for what the future holds,

As we draw near to the end of this second lockdown

we pray for the government and the medical advisors

who face difficult decisions in the days and weeks to come,

give them wisdom and humility in all they do.

And we pray for calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers, now and always.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,

whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable

and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:

we hold before you those who are homeless and cold

especially as we begin the season of Winter.

Draw near and comfort them in spirit

and bless those who work to provide them

with shelter, food and friendship.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

O Lord God, your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his resurrection he restores life and peace in all creation.

Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance

and those oppressed by their fellow humans.

We pray for all areas of the world where there is intolerance and hatred.

We pray for all those whose lives are deemed less valuable

due to their religion, nationality, gender, sexuality or race.

Bring healing to all who suffer and right understanding to those in power.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,

make us worthy of a place in your kingdom,

May God the Son, coming among us in power,

reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,

joyful in hope and constant in love.

The Collect for Advent Sunday

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

That on 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

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour 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.**

Closing Hymn: In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This cornerstone, this solid ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all,

Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone – who took on flesh,

Fullness of God in helpless Babe!

This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones he came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied,

For every sin on Him was laid;

Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,

Light of the world by darkness slain,

Then, bursting forth in glorious day,

Up from the grave he rose again!

And as He stands in victory

Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine –

Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,

This is the power of Christ in me;

From life’s first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till he returns or calls me home,

Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!

Blessing:

May God himself, the God of peace,

make you perfect and holy,

and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,

for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be with you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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