

**St Andrew's Church  
Bedford**



**Advent Carol Service**

**Sunday 27 November 2022  
6.00pm**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Opening Proclamation (Jeremiah 23:5-6)**

**Bidding Prayer and Introduction**

***Which ends with the words*** ‘all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end’.

***All Amen***

*We say together*

**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.**

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.

***All Amen.***

***REMAIN STANDING***

***All lights in the Church are extinguished***

***The Advent Candle is carried into the church and placed at the Chancel step.***

***The following prayer is said once the Advent candle is in place***

Our God is merciful and tender. He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us, and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace.

*Luke 1:78-79*

***A Minister lights a candle from the Advent Candle and passes the light to the congregation until all candles are lit.***

***The Choir sings The Matin Responsory Palestrina***

***The Choir and Ministers process***

**ADVENT CAROL 11 O come, O come Emmanuel**

*Choir only verse 1, Omit verse 2, all sing from verse 3.*

***At the end of the carol extinguish personal candles and keep to re-light during the last carol.***

**PRAYER**

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please sit*

**THE COMING OF THE LIGHT**

**READING - Isaiah 9:2-7**

*Please stand as you are able*

**ADVENT CAROL 8 Lift up your heads**

**PRAYER**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please sit*

## **A LIGHT OF PROMISE**

**READING** - Isaiah 42:1-9

*Please stand as you are able*

**ADVENT CAROL 18 Ye Servants of the Lord**

*Please sit*

**REFLECTION 1**

*Advent Oratorio by Paul Spicer & N.T. Wright*

**ANTHEM A tender Shoot. Goldschmit**

## **A LIGHT OF LIFE**

**READING** – Galatians 4:4-6

*Please stand as you are able*

**ADVENT CAROL 6 Hark the Glad Sound**

*Please sit*

**REFLECTION 2 The Winter is Cold** *by Madeleine L'Engle*

## **PRAYER**

O God we are in great darkness  
When we heard of Jesus we saw a light far off,  
Do not let anything put out that light,  
But lead us nearer to it. Amen

*Please stand as you are able*

## **ADVENT CAROL Hills of the North, rejoice**

Hills of the north, rejoice;  
River and mountain spring,  
Hark to the advent voice  
Valley and lowland, sing:  
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;  
He judgement brings and victory.

Isles of the southern seas,  
Deep in your coral caves  
Pent be each warring breeze,  
Lulled be your restless waves:  
He comes to reign with boundless sway,  
And makes your wastes his great highway.

Lands of the east, awake,  
Soon shall your sons be free;  
The sleep of ages break,  
And rise to liberty.  
On your far hills, long cold and grey,  
Has dawned the everlasting day.

Shores of the utmost west,  
Ye that have waited long,  
Unvisited, unblest,  
Break forth to swelling song;  
High raise the note that Jesus died,  
Yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

Shout, while ye journey home;  
Songs be in every mouth;  
Lo, from the north we come,  
From east and west and south.  
City of God, the bond are free,  
We come to live and reign in thee!

*Please sit*

## **A LIGHT OF HOPE**

**READING** - Revelation 21:1-7

**ANTHEM** Jesus Christ the Apple Tree. Poston

**REFLECTION 3** First Light *by Richard Bauckham*

*Please stand*

**ADVENT CAROL** 186 Tell out my soul

## **A LIGHT FOR THE WORLD**

*Please sit or kneel for the Prayers*

**Prayers of intercession**

**Response to** Hear us, O Lord, as we pray to you :

**All sing** Wait for the Lord

*Taizé* Music/Words



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

**ANTHEM** Hail, gladdening Light. *Martin*

**REFLECTION 4** Life is an Advent Season *Connections, 11-28-93*

## **PRAYER**

As we acknowledge and give thanks for your presence amongst us, O Lord,

We pray, O God, to whom we may always look

That you will lighten our hearts

As the sun throws light  
Upon the darkness of the world.  
May we always reflect your radiance  
So that those who have not known you  
May see you in us. Amen

### ***Silence***

Having prayed for God's light to shine from within us, let us go out into the world and share the light of His love.

*As the Advent Carol is sung, the light is passed once again from the Advent Candle and everyone's candles are lit.*

***Please stand as you are able***

**Advent Carol 9 Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

### **FINAL BLESSING**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you this night, now and evermore. Amen

***The Organ plays and ministers and choir process out***



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