

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Third Sunday of ADVENT

Sunday 12th December 2021

This act of worship has been prepared to allow us to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it. We thank all the team involved in creating and distributing this service, and praise God for his unchanging character and unfailing love.

This order of service is for you to use as you are able: some of you may wish simply to read it, whether silently or aloud. Others may wish to listen, and even join in with the singing: just click on the links. Full video service <https://youtu.be/BVfoY5hHtKk>

If you want to join in the whole service, follow the link which you'll find on our website: www.stmungos.freeuk.com. And if you would like to listen to just the sermon and a prayer, dial **01968 700121**. There will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.

INTROIT: Come and see the saviour Watch video <https://youtu.be/WknS-e403j0>

Come and see the saviour, heaven's invitation;
image of the maker, lying in a manger.
Angels fill the skies, singing in the night:
Glory on high!

Come and see the saviour, heaven's invitation.

Sing glory on high, sing glory on high.

Come, see heaven's invitation.

Come and see the saviour, hope of all creation;
healing for the nations, mercy for the stranger.
Taken by surprise, shepherds see the sign
and worship the Lamb.

Come and see the saviour, hope of all creation.

And worship the Lamb... and worship the Lamb.

Come, see heaven's invitation.

Come and see the saviour, promise of the ages;
perfect gift from heaven, given now to save us.
Following the star, wise men from afar
pour out their praise.

Come and see the saviour, promise of the ages.

And pour out your praise... and pour out your praise.

Come, see heaven's invitation.

WELCOME to our service today. Let's join in our call to worship.

Leader: God of hope, who brought love into this world,

All: be the love that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, who brought peace into this world,

All: be the peace that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, who brought joy into this world,

All: be the joy that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, the rock upon which we stand,

**All: be the centre, the focus of our lives always,
and particularly in this Advent time. Amen.**

Let's worship God.

(From faithandworship.com)

HYMN: Come, thou long expected Jesus

Watch video <https://youtu.be/l8u2agYgnt8?t=84>

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

All thy people's consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious Kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Video: The California South Division of the Salvation Army

PRAYER

God our Father,
we thank you that in Jesus Christ,
your light shines in the darkness
and nothing has ever been able to overcome it.
Despite hostility and rejection, hatred and evil,
your light (your grace and truth) shines into human lives.
We praise you for the light you brought

through the life and ministry of Jesus:
good news to the poor, freedom for the captives,
sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed,
new life and hope springing up in deadened lives.

We thank you for the fire of your Holy Spirit kindled within us,
the living reality of Jesus among us and at work in us:
the dawn from on high which has broken in upon us.

Holy God, you are light, and in you is no darkness at all.
If we say we have that real, living relationship with you
and still choose to go on living in the dark,
we're not telling the truth
and we're not living in the truth.

But if we live and walk in your light, the light of Christ,
then we share real relationship with you
and with each other,
and the blood of Jesus, your Son, cleanses us from all sin.

So we take time to confess our sins to you now,
pausing the video if we need more time....

We thank you that you are faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Nick Fawcett.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Near the end of a long letter to the Christian community in Rome,
the apostle Paul quotes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah says:

*"A new king will come from the family of Jesse.
He will come to rule over the non-Jewish people,
and they will have hope because of him."* (Isaiah 11:10)

Then Paul prays for the people he's writing the letter to: He mentions the three things
that the three candles we've lit so far, stand for.

See if you can spot these three things.

*"I pray that the God who gives **hope**
will fill you with much **joy** and **peace** while you trust in him.
Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13)

Let's pray.

Father God, you give us hope through Jesus.

We ask you to fill us with lots of joy
and great peace while we go on trusting you.

Let this hope overflow from us
and into the lives of people around us
by the power of your Holy Spirit in us.
Father, show yourself faithful in this
because of what Jesus has done for us and in us. **Amen**

BIBLE READINGS

Reader: Bill Webster

John 1: 9-13 (New Century Version)

The true Light that gives light to all was coming into the world!

The Word was in the world, and the world was made by him, but the world did not know him. He came to the world that was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God. They did not become his children in any human way—by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God.

The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

John 3: 1-21 (New English Translation)

Now a certain man, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who was a member of the Jewish ruling council, came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time, can he?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must all be born from above.’ The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus replied, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you don’t understand these things? I tell you the solemn truth, we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I have told you people about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son

into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

Now this is the basis for judging: that the light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil deeds hates the light and does not come to the light, so that their deeds will not be exposed. But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, so that it may be plainly evident that his deeds have been done in God.

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HYMN: How the enigma of holiness beckons! (Tune: Epiphany)

Watch video <https://youtu.be/GTGHohY4klI>

How the enigma of holiness beckons!
God comes among us, a baby so small:
wondering angels exult in amazement;
faith recognises the Maker of all.

Who would have dreamed of such unlikely splendour?
He is the light all the world needs to see;
he is the message of hope for the nations,
giving the prisoners the chance to be free.

How could he yield to so grievous an outrage,
murdered by those he intended to save?
Here is the love that has suffered and conquered,
stronger than death, and the scourge of the grave.

How the enigma of holiness beckons -
joys that are ours from the pathways of pain -
manger and cross, resurrection and glory:
God comes among us to suffer and reign.

Martin E. Leckebusch (b.1962) © Author, adm. Jubilate Group

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem

Watch video <https://youtu.be/Uu4ezof7KFK>

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven:
no ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him—still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell -
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893); tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Video: the Virtual Choir of Ferryhill Parish Church

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES (Margaret Webster)

Father God

Thank you that through your love, you bring light and hope into our world.
So now we bring you our prayers for ourselves and for other people.

Lord, we pray for your world where there is so much darkness, where many live in fear
for their lives and where there is hatred, violence and distrust;
For those whose homes have been swept away by floods or wrecked by earthquakes;
For those driven off their own land and all who are refugees;
For those whose homes and families have been cruelly devastated by the effects of
oppression and war - or by the Covid pandemic;
For those with no hope, no faith, no love and no future

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

Father, we thank you for your CHURCH here in Penicuik – different denominations
serving **together** to bring your love to the people in our community – at this time
asking that your Holy Spirit be at work in the many advent events that are taking place
– that people may know something of your hope and peace.

We thank you for our twinning partners in Saontalpur, where Christians are a
minority – protect them and bless them, Father, that they will be salt and light to
people of other faiths – and may they and us be a symbol of hope to our neighbours in
each place.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

And here in Penicuik as St Mungo's and Penicuik South & Howgate draw closer to the
union of our congregations, we thank you for the richness and diversity of gifts coming
together to serve you. We pray for understanding, wisdom, grace and guidance
through your Holy Spirit to help us see differences as strengths and to help us be ready

to learn from one another. Open our hearts to the movement of your Spirit and so make us the people and the church you would have us to be.

Father, we think of those in our community who are finding life difficult at this time: Those without work, without enough money to clothe their families or buy food to eat - Father, bless them with the help they need;

Those who are ill at home or in hospital and those who care for them - Lord, grant them healing and strength and courage for each day.

We ask your blessing on people who are separated from loved ones and for whom this season is particularly difficult, especially those who are bereaved – give them your comfort and hope for the future.

We take a moment now to bring personal situations and people to you.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

God of hope, thank you that you hear our prayers and that you always respond to our prayers given in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ whose prayer we now 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever.**

Amen.

HYMN: Hark! the herald angels sing

Watch video <https://youtu.be/WRZSh-rIRNM?list=PLUTsn5gOo3DGEShHZKV5vZ5WBKuaxwPi>

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing...

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing...

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788); Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arranged by Jonathan Rathbone
Played by the All Souls Orchestra, conducted by Michael Andrews*

THE BLESSING

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you. **Amen.**

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**Next week: December 19th
Advent 4: Nativity Service**