

ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS

3 December 2023

Advent 1B



Welcome & Time of Sharing

Call to Worship:

This is the Sunday of Hope. Hope is found in the presence of God who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds us in the palm of his hand.

We embrace God's presence here, at this moment, in this place.

Hope is found when God brings people together that need each other, when words are spoken that are deeper than life.

We embrace God's wise men and women among us.

Hope is found when bad suspicions remain unfulfilled, when life is born where death reigned, when love overcomes fear.

We embrace the one who brings life.

Hope is found when people find God and find themselves in God.

Loving God, speak to us this morning!

SONG: TIS 272 Come thou long expected Jesus.

1 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.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

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

Introduction to Advent

Lighting of the first Advent Candle: The Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

(The first candle is lit)

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

SONG

Advent candles tell their story,
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears, and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.

PRAYER

READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

SONG: I will wait now (Tune: TIS 156)

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1 And I will wait now,
and in the waiting
feel still more closely
your love for me.
For I'll be patient
and I'll be gentle,
touched by your steadfast
humility.

2 And I will hope now,
and in the hoping
make every action
a gift for you.
For I'll seek justice
and I'll love mercy,
each word I speak an
echo of you.

3 And I will go now,
and in the going
follow your Christ light
so I will see
how I may find you,
holy and human,
your arms stretched open.
waiting for me.

REFLECTION

1 God of all places: present, unseen;
Voice in our silence, song in our midst.
We are your people, knowing, unsure.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

2 God of all dreaming, near and yet
far.
Vision unheard of, wake us to rest.
We are your presence, sent forth
afraid.

3 God of all people, dust and the clay.
Breath of a new wind, fire in our heart.
Light born of heaven, peace on the earth.

David Haas

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever.
Amen.***

Thanksgiving Prayer

SONG TIS 268 Joy to the world

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
 let earth receive its king;
 let every heart prepare him room,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven, and heaven and nature
 sing.

2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour
 reigns;
 let us our songs employ;
 while fields and streams, rocks,
 hills and plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

Blessing:

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
**be the centre, the focus of our lives always,
 and particularly this Advent time. Amen**

[You are invited to light a candle as you leave the sanctuary.]

PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Rev Ian Dow