

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 5 December 2021  
Advent 2  
The Turning Place**



**Gathering Music**

Dietrich Buxtehude, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Johannes Brahms, Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

A tiny jewel of light  
dances on the edge of the horizon:  
a solitary star before sunrise  
glimmers of promise of dawn  
at the end of the world's blight.

**It is the light of the world.  
'Emmanuel' (God-with-us),  
the Promised One.**

**Come to us, Emmanuel!  
We have seen your light  
and gather here  
awaiting the day of your coming.**

**Hymn**      In the bulb there is a flower  
In the bulb there is a flower ;  
in the seed, an apple tree ;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise :  
butterflies will soon be free !  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.  
  
There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody.  
There's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future,  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

### **Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Lord, here we are, an Advent people:  
waiting still  
to be surprised by your coming.

On the pitch seagulls are waiting;  
in the hedge small birds are waiting;  
wait with us, Creator God.

In the lunch queue pupils are waiting;  
in the hospital parents are waiting;  
wait with us, Jesus our friend.

In the library, knowledge is waiting;  
in the classroom technology is waiting;  
wait with us, Spirit of discovery.

Merciful God,  
forgive us when we grow impatient with one another.  
Help us see waiting as something we all have in common.  
In the many faces of waiting,  
may we all wait upon you.

And as we wait together,  
may we not be limited to the passive waiting  
of apathy or indifference.  
Open us up to wait actively

with compassion and a thirst for justice  
so that who we are  
and what we do as we wait today  
may change tomorrow  
and give hope  
to those for whom waiting seems hopeless.

Gracious God,  
open our eyes and our hearts,  
keep turning us around,  
to your way of being.  
Re-turn us through the words that Jesus taught saying:

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

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

On our Advent journey we look at the paths we have walked.  
We see the wrong turns we have taken.  
We decide to turn towards one another  
and return to the heart of God's ways.

Second Advent candle is lit

### **Prayer**

Lord our journey is one of repentance,  
of turning.  
May we know your presence  
on our journey together.

**May the candle we light today  
light the way on our journey  
and may you be  
our companion and guide  
as we travel. Amen.**

### **We share of a sign of Christ's Peace**

Peace be with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn      Wait for the Lord (x3)**

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

**Many types of waiting**

**Hymn      Wait for the Lord (x3)**

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

**Scripture Readings**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Anthem      ‘ O Radiant Dawn’

James MacMillan

**The Turning Place**

**Hymn** The time has come

The time has come when from the past,  
prophetic words ring true at last;  
though earth's hostilities increase,  
God's promise is of lasting peace.  
Hallelujah! Prepare the way.  
Hear what God's chosen prophets say.

The time has come to make it known  
that every tear and pain and groan  
are registered in heaven above  
to be redeemed by holy love.  
Hallelujah! Prepare the way.  
Only Love lifts us from dismay.

The time has come to make amends:  
Earth and its people should be friends.  
Erase the policies of death,  
spread hope with every vital breath.  
Hallelujah! Prepare the way.  
God gladly comes to earth to stay.

The time has come to share good news,  
to sweep the floor and mend the shoes,  
prepare to protest, praise and dance  
for God is eager to advance.  
Hallelujah! Expect a birth:  
God's gracious feet will touch the earth.

## **Palestine – when will the world turn?**

### **How we pray prophetically**

#### **(Prophetic) Prayers of the People**

Lord hear our prayer  
**and help us be part of the turning.**

#### **Hymn        People look East**

People, look East. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today :  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East, and sing today :  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### **Blessing and Sending**

Go out into the world  
Knowing that Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Go out into the world  
redefining this season of waiting  
into a time of turning  
towards the dawn of God's holy light.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
abide with you this day, and evermore. Amen.

### **Sung Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

### **Sending Music**

Fantasy on 'Helmsley', Kenneth Leighton

Worship Leaders: Rev. Rosie Magee, David Dow. Rev. Colin Douglas

Advent candle lighting: Toby and Oscar Marcham

Reader: Selda Dow

Organist and pianist: Alasdair Grant

The choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Amy Marcham, Philippa Burgess, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Image: [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com)

Opening prayer adapted from 'Coming in from the Cold' by Janet Lees, Wild Goose Resource Group

Scripture readings: New Revised Standard Version

How we Pray Prophetically, Jo Love, Resourcing Mission <https://vimeo.com/361055009>

Hymns from Church Hymnary 4<sup>th</sup> Edition except 'The time has come' from Known Unknowns, by John L Bell and Graham Maule, Wild Goose Resource Group, 2018.

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