

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

29/11/2020 – Advent

Advent – The Light of the World



This week is the start of advent and to mark this special season you can join our Brigades for a Christingle service on Monday 30th November at 6:30pm on ZOOM <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71836743156?pwd=aGUyYk5Pd2hVNXArbFkwZFJKTHlpQT09>

Meeting ID: 718 3674 3156

Passcode: 8pYWzr

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

"Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!"

Luke 21:27-28

Good morning and welcome to our Advent service.

Our first hymn is "O come, O come, Emmanuel" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpj4Q_Q-4

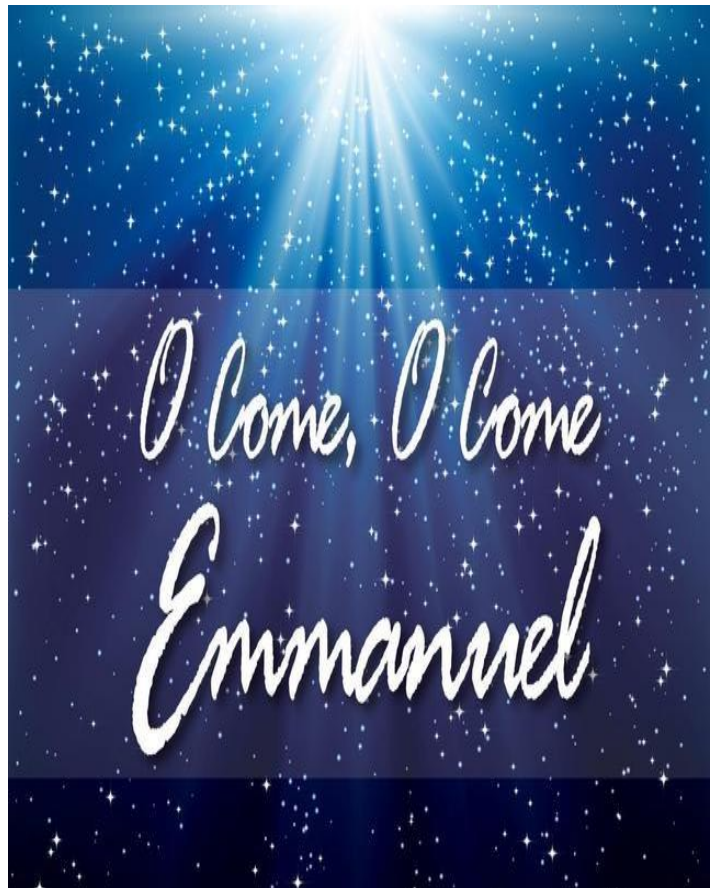
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Our readings today are taken from John 1 1-18 & Luke 21:25-36:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-18&version=NIVUK>
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+21%3A25-36&version=NIVUK>

As we move into the Advent season, we turn our eyes to the coming of Jesus. The light of the world coming to earth as flesh.

Advent signifies the coming of something new. John 1:6-9 tells us:

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

This passage tells us that God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone would believe. John wasn't the light, he only came to tell others about the light. Who was the light that John came to tell people about? That's right, it was Jesus. The one true light, who gives light to everyone.

At this time of year, we see lights everywhere that remind us of the coming of that true Light that John told us about. There are trees adorned with lights, streets that are lined with lights, homes and businesses are outlined with lights. One of the favourite activities of the season is to drive around and look at all of the beautiful lights.

I wonder how many of us remember that the lights of this season are a symbol of the one true Light, Jesus, who brought light into the darkness of this world? As many light the candles on the advent wreath, the four candles remind us that Jesus brings hope, love, joy, and peace into the world. It is true, "The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the Light of the world is Jesus!"

Our second hymn is "Light of the World" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBKzCpkXJR4>

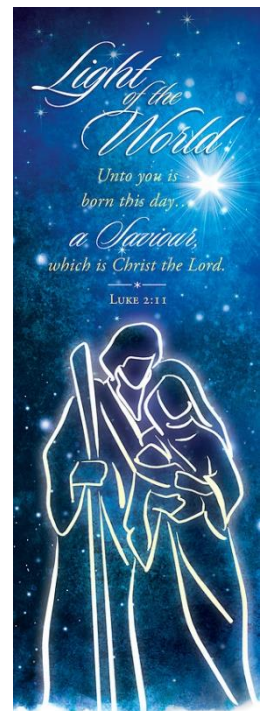
Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Here I am to worship....

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.....



However, this is only one part of advent. It is the time of year when we remember promises about the first coming of Jesus, that we celebrate at Christmas, and also the second coming of Jesus that is still to come one day in the future.

Let us imagine that the Queen phoned you up and said she was coming to your house for a visit soon!

That would be exciting wouldn't it? How would you prepare for the Queen?

I would start by tidying the house then the dusting and make everything look really good. I would scrub and polish, possibly re-decorate. The windows would get a clean, so they sparkled. If the Queen was coming over, I would certainly want to have the house clean and everything in order. That would be especially important if I didn't know the exact time she was coming.

Imagining that the Queen is coming to our house helps us to think about this important season of Advent.

The season of Advent is also when we remember that Jesus said that he would return one day to earth so that we could actually see him. We don't know when that day will be so it's important for us to have our lives clean and in order. We don't want our lives to be like a messy, cluttered house. We want to make sure our lives are cleaned up of all bitterness, greed, selfishness, and that we are living lives that are pleasing to God. That way, we can be excited about the fact that Jesus is returning and know his hope, love, joy, and peace while we wait for that day.

Our final hymn is "Joy to the World" [Joy to the World - Kid's Version w/ Lyrics - YouTube](#)

<p>1. Joy to the world, the Lord has come Let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing And heaven, and heaven and nature sing</p>	<p>2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns Let men their songs employ While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy</p>	<p>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</p>
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Let's pray.

Thank you God for the promise that Jesus will someday return. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to be ready for that day by living lives that are pleasing to you and please forgive us when we do things that are wrong. That way we will be ready to welcome King Jesus and we'll share in his hope, love, joy, and peace. Amen.

My Advent Promises

<p>Week 1 HOPE How I will be hopeful</p> 	<p>Week 2 PEACE How I will be peaceful</p> 
<p>Week 3 JOY How I will be joyful</p> 	<p>Week 4 LOVE How I will be loving</p> 