

## **Order of Service 29th November 2020**

### **Advent 1: God is with us in Hope**

**Leader:** In a world of darkness and despair hope is often the only thing we have to cling on to. The birth of Jesus brings hope to this world and an opportunity for a new beginning!

**Response: Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The first candle is lit and this response is used*

**Leader:** Jesus is the light of the world.

**Response: A light no darkness can ever put out.**

**All: The day of the Lord is surely coming.**

**Be faithful in worship.**

**Unwavering in hope, fervent in the work of God's kingdom**

**and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

### **Prayer**

Gathered here today,  
we light a candle of hope,  
knowing that in dark times  
there is always a light that can be lit.  
Let us, people in dusk and dawn,  
light the light of vigilance,  
knowing that God is always calling us  
to justice, mercy and humility –  
at this time of year,  
and all times of the year.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Singing the Faith 175** *Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness*

1 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.

*So here I am to worship,  
here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that you're my God,  
and you're altogether lovely,  
altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.*

2 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.

*So here I am to worship ...*

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

*So here I am to worship ...*

Tim Hughes

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## Bible Reading: **Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress,

"the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;

<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>26</sup> "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it<sup>is</sup> near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

### **The Day and Hour Unknown**

<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert<sup>!</sup>! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Sermon- Revd. Noel

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Loving God, your kingdom is a kingdom of justice and mercy.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that they might rule fairly and with compassion,

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your Kingdom is a Kingdom of hope and joy.

We pray for those in sorrow or need. We remember the bereaved, the anxious and the ill, the destitute, the hungry and the homeless.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your Kingdom is a Kingdom of love and unity.

We pray for Hounslow Methodist Church, for our Circuit and the Church throughout the world, asking that we might be true agents of, and witnesses to, your saving love.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your Kingdom is a Kingdom of light and life.

We pray for ourselves, that you will guide us safely on our journey through life so that we might come to be with you in your eternal Kingdom.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **Singing the Faith: 503** *Love divine, all loves excelling*

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art ;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive ;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be ;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee :  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise !

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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## Prayer

We have been called in

We have been called in,  
to be renewed in the name of the one who is love.

Even in the darkest night,  
even when there is only one small candle lit,  
your power and love restore us.

Let your light shine on us as we go from here,  
so that we may be warmed and strengthened  
to light your light all around.

**Amen.**

Blessing

## Acknowledgement for Prayers:

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